

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism in the new Inos-Hofschneider administration?

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to cast your vote.

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## AG: Over \$27M in unpaid judgments and settlements

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the Legislature has yet to appropriate money to pay the government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements, now at more than \$27 million excluding accruing interests,

prompting some members of the House of Representatives yesterday to consider the matter when they work on the fiscal year 2014 budget.

These government obligations go as far back as November 2004.

Under CNMI law, any final



San Nicolas

judgment of a court can only be paid if the Legislature appropriates a budget for it.

There are 17 sets of judgment creditors or claimants on the AG's list, sent to the House and Senate on Feb. 1, three weeks after the 18th Legislature took office. Each

is owed by the government anywhere from \$20,000 to \$11.43 million.

Two more were added to the list from the time former AG Edward Buckingham sent a similar letter two days before he left Saipan on Aug. 2, 2012.

In his five-page letter, San Nicolas urged the Legislature to check with the

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## NMI braces for new signatory airline

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

A new signatory airline may soon be added to the short list of CNMI carriers following disclosure yesterday that Papaya Air has started submitting permits and documents for its plan to launch regular flights to Saipan.

Edward Deleon Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, confirmed that the fledgling carrier has already turned in some requirements.

Based on the new carrier's submission, it will tap the Beijing and Shanghai markets for its first regular flights to

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## Crisostomo also linked to 1995 murder of couple

» Man was shot repeatedly; woman was strangled

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo has also been linked to the 1995 kidnapping and murder of a couple that owned a store in Dandan. In that case, the man was shot repeatedly; his wife was strangled.

As this developed, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho postponed yesterday Crisostomo's preliminary hearing to today, Wednesday, for the 2012 murder and kidnapping of bartender Emerita Romero. The judge set the new hearing date after court-appointed

defense counsel Colin Thompson withdrew due to conflict as he is representing a witness in the case.

Multiple sources disclosed yesterday that authorities reopened the investigation into the killing of Zhao Ming Hou and his wife Yu Hua Huang after a woman told the Federal Bureau of Investigation about Crisostomo's possible involvement in that case.



Crisostomo

When asked yesterday whether Crisostomo is also a suspect in the murder of Hou and Huang, Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said the Special Homicide Activity Resolution

Partnership team will be working on all unsolved homicide cases.

"Cases with the highest probability of resolution will be acted on immediately. All leads will be investigated," Blas said.

He said he has no information if Crisostomo is linked to any other case

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## HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), right, raises his hand to be recognized to speak, while Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), second from right, looks on during the House of Representatives' session yesterday afternoon. Besides adopting five resolutions, the House also passed bills raising by 5 percentage points the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax and expediting the process of refunding NMI Retirement Fund contributions.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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■ Finish GED now as changes are due in 2014. **PAGE 18**



## Local

# Joeten Foundation is MMAC's newest title sponsor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The Joeten Charitable Foundation continues its legacy of support for the Marianas March Against Cancer with yesterday's presentation of \$5,000 worth of cash and in-kind support to the event's organizing committee.

Foundation executives led by program manager Somia Quan handed a check worth \$2,000 to MMAC volunteers led by 2013 overall chair Manny Borja in a ceremony at the second floor of the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

Additionally, Joeten Charitable Foundation will also provide \$3,000 worth of in-kind donation, bringing to \$5,000 the foundation's total contribution to the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Marianas.

This makes the charitable arm of Joeten companies and affiliates a title sponsor, an honor bestowed on organizations or companies that donate \$3,000 or more in cash, products, or services. It is considered MMAC's highest level of sponsorship.

Foundation president Frances T. Demapan said their support for MMAC, the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, dates back to the time when it was still previously known as Relay for Life under the auspices of the American Cancer Society.

"The Joeten Charitable Foundation has always been very supportive of cancer education, prevention, and support programs because this is something that's dearly close



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Joeten Charitable Foundation executives pose with Marianas March Against Cancer volunteers and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and board members as the charitable arm of Joeten companies and affiliates presented a \$2,000 check and announced a \$3,000 worth of in-kind donation during a ceremony at the second floor of Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

to a lot of our families. We feel that this is just one way of supporting our community," Demapan said at the ceremony.

Demapan also recognized the MMAC volunteers for their efforts in making the event possible each year.

"It looks like more people are getting involved. Before it was smaller but now the group is growing and it looks like you have a bigger team," she said.

As part of the foundation's involvement in MMAC, Quan said

they will form Team Joeten to boost efforts in raising funds that would go toward cancer awareness and patient support services.

Quan said the team will have a booth selling refreshments during the event slated for April 26 to 27 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

The foundation is also looking at possibly partnering with any interested school or organization as well as having their own shirts for the event.

MMAC committee chair Borja said they are thankful and very fortunate to have the continued support of the Joeten Charitable Foundation.

"As one of the longest running sponsors, it's really good that we still have them on board because the battle against cancer is a very tremendous battle. No one person or even a small group can handle it alone so it's really important to get the entire community involved," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We're really happy to have the Joeten Charitable Foundation on board once again and we look forward to many years of having them as our partner," Borja added.

He noted that sponsorship for this year's event is "very strong," with the sponsorship committee working hard to bring back regular benefactors and get new ones.

Borja said they are also excited to see an increase in the number of participating teams

that will compete in the 12-hour event under the categories of Pulan (families), Napu (schools), Puti'un (businesses), and Atdao (non-profit/government agencies).

The committee is encouraging the public to place their orders early for luminaries in memory of loved ones who passed away due to the deadly disease.

For more information, contact Borja at 989-1987, email [emanuel.borja@gmail.com](mailto:emanuel.borja@gmail.com) or visit [www.ccmarianas.org](http://www.ccmarianas.org).

## 75 students, 20 firms join PSS cooperative education career fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

About 75 seniors from public high schools and 20 private companies and government agencies joined the Public School System's Cooperative Education Career Fair held yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Chris A. Tenorio, co-op program instructor for Kagman High School, said about 35 of his students participated.

The career fair is designed to help prepare students for the job market by exposing them to various career options they may consider after high school graduation. For groups and companies, the event is a great venue to scout for new talent.

Tenorio said that there's no better time to prepare the young workforce than to start it during their high school years. He is convinced that the students' experiences at the Coop Education Career Fair will help them develop their skills and confidence



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Representatives of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan entertain queries from visiting students during yesterday's career fair at Hyatt Regency Saipan, which saw the participation of 75 seniors from public high schools and 20 government agencies and private companies on island.

as they meet with real company executives and representatives.

The Cooperative Program consists of both Cooperative

Education on campus and Cooperative Training off campus.

In Cooperative Education, students participate in complet-

ing résumés, applications, interviews, personal development, and other projects. In Cooperative Training, students gain

work experience by participating as a "trainee" at an off-campus business organization.

Patrick Camacho, a senior from KHS, told *Saipan Tribune* that if not for the program, he would never have experienced the joy of working in a hotel environment. After joining the fair last year, Camacho was able to land a part-time job at Hyatt Regency Saipan as a guest service officer.

Camacho reports to work each day after his school hours. Aside from earning his own money, he credits the company for instilling in him the value of patience, hard work, and what customer service really means.

Camacho is graduating this year and has enlisted in the military. However, he remains open to going back to the hotel industry in the future.

Senior student Jeremy Atalig, who wants to be in auto mechanics, was seen yesterday conversing with representatives of Triple J Motors and Saipan Stevedore, inquiring about the

firms' service profiles.

According to DFS human resources manager Esther Ada, the co-op program provides the company an opportunity to showcase the services available at DFS. The event also provides young participants the chance to be considered for short- or long-term employment.

"If they're looking for a career in retail, we want to let them know that there's a company out here that offers great trainings and opportunities," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that DFS is a global company that provides wider opportunities to employees.

MHS co-op program instructor Tyce Mister said the career fair is a great learning experience for students as it helps build their confidence and develop skills.

He said he is grateful to the companies for their consistent support of the program. If other businesses want to be involved, Mister said they are ready to work with them so that more students may be provided possible internships.

# Inos' first joint leadership meeting with lawmakers today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider will hold their first leadership meeting with members of the 18th Senate and House of Representatives this morning, with the eight-day-old Inos administration expected to lay out its goals and forge a working relationship with 29 lawmakers.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and acting House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) notified all lawmakers yesterday of today's meeting wherein the new administration "would like to address and discuss issues facing our Commonwealth."

Torres said in an interview that if given the chance, he would ask the administration to provide "full assistance" to the hospital, reprogram capital improvement project funds to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and prioritize the NMI Retirement Fund in collaboration with legislative special committees also addressing the pension system.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) separately said he expects all parties today to "work toward

a common goal" and address pressing issues such as turning the economy around. Press secretary Angel Demapan said as of yesterday afternoon, the governor and lieutenant governor are still finalizing the agenda for today's joint leadership meeting. "In general, the governor and lieutenant governor simply intend to discuss the goals of the administration and forge a healthy working relationship for the benefit of the people," he told *Saipan Tribune*.



Inos



Hofschneider

## SDA health expo draws 240-plus on Tinian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Over 240 Tinian residents availed of the free health services during the 2nd Health Expo held on Feb. 24.

Pastor Paulo Restauo of Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Church said Monday that the success of this year's expo encourages them to make it an annual event.

Restauo said two planes were chartered for the 10 individuals from Saipan composed of four dentists and two dental assistants from SDA Clinic, three representatives from Saipan SDA Church, and one optician from Hardt Eye Clinic, who volunteered their time and services to extend the free services to the Tinian community.

Among the services provided were dental screenings and procedures, eye screenings, blood sugar and blood pressure check-ups, and counseling.

Restauo said that dental services were held at the Tinian Health Center, while the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs gymnasium served as the main venue for the

other free health services.

He acknowledged the cooperation of members of the Tinian SDA Church and JC Café staffers for their assistance.

"We would like to thank the Lord for the success of this program and also to everyone that made this event possible," said Restauo.

The first Tinian Health Expo, which was held two years ago, served more than 150 individuals.



Tinian residents avail of free health services during the 2nd Health Expo on Feb. 24 at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs gymnasium and the Tinian Health Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## Man, 57, arrested for sex abuse of girl

Police arrested over the weekend a 57-year-old man who allegedly sexually abused a 10-year-old girl on Saipan.

Masai Misasy Samuel was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, oral copulation, and indecent exposure in the second degree.

His bail was set Monday at \$50,000 cash.

Police detective Rudolfo Hermosilla stated in his report that a police officer responded on Feb. 5, 2013, to a call about a possible sexual abuse at a house in Dandan.

Hermosilla said the girl told her grandmother that Samuel sexually abused her in November 2012.

The girl resisted by repeatedly punching Samuel's head.

The suspect, however, allegedly continued sexually abusing her.

The detective said that in an interview with police on Feb. 11, Samuel admitted sexually abusing the girl but denied that there was penetration. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

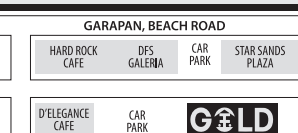
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### QUESTIONS

email church at [calvaryspn@yahoo.com](mailto:calvaryspn@yahoo.com)

# Search on for snorkeler swept out to sea

**APRA HARBOR, Guam**—The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and CNMI Department of Public Safety are searching for a 61-year-old Saipan

resident who was swept out to sea from Obyan Beach, Saipan.

The snorkeler was reportedly last seen in the water off Obyan Beach

at approximately 4:45pm Tuesday, wearing a long-sleeved blue shirt, a pair of yellow shorts, and a diving mask with snorkel.

Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified by the CNMI Emergency Management Office at 7:30pm after the wife of the snorkeler reported him missing.

DPS boat crews and the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25

are taking part in the search.

Anyone with information regarding this search and rescue case is urged to contact the Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG or Saipan's Emergency Management Office at 670-237-8000. **(USCG)**

## House OKs 5 pct. hotel occupancy tax hike, faster Fund refund

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon a bill increasing by 5 percentage points the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax by April 1 to help fund tourism marketing and promotions, along with a measure that expedites the release of NMI Retirement Fund employee contributions for over 1,700 applicants.

Both administration-sponsored bills now head to the Senate for action.

House members also adopted yesterday five resolutions and joint resolutions, including one that requests Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas to extradite former AG and now fugitive from justice Edward Buckingham to face criminal charges.

House minority leader George Camacho's (R-Saipan) House Bill 18-2, House Draft 1 increases the hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent. It passed by a vote of 18-0, with two excused absences.

The bill seeks to pump more money into the Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing and promotion of the CNMI as a premier tourism destination.

MVA's lack of funding under the annual budget is crippling its ability to competitively advertise and promote the CNMI against other destinations in the region, states the House Tour-

ism Committee that recommended the bill's passage.

Under the current 10 percent occupancy tax, the MVA's share is about \$3.5 million, said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. With the increase, it is estimated that MVA will be entitled to some \$5 million.

Tenorio said hoteliers and other travel partners support this legislation.

"We're very happy that the Legislature also feels the same way," he told reporters.

Tenorio and MVA board of directors chair Marian Aldan-Pierce were at the House session yesterday afternoon. Tenorio said hotels expect a smooth transition because there is already a mechanism in place to collect the hotel occupancy tax; it's just a matter of changing it from 10 percent to 15 percent.

"And I know that our hotel partners are already preparing for that," he added.

Tour agents promoting the CNMI, for example, have begun including the tax increase in their promotional packages after April 1, 2013.

Camacho, the bill's main author, said he's grateful for the swift action on this much needed revenue-generating bill. "I hope we can continue this trend," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Equally important is enforcing the new hotel occupancy tax once it becomes law, said Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Roman

Benavente (IR-Saipan).

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan), and acting House Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said they trust Finance to remit the funds for MVA's use.

Up to 2 percent or \$400,000 of the funds per fiscal year from the MVA Trust Fund will be equally divided and remitted to the Rota and Tinian municipalities for the implementation of charter flight tourism incentives and promotions.

### Faster refunds

By a vote of 17-0, the House also passed yesterday Dela Cruz's House Bill 18-12, amending Public Law 17-82 to expedite the refunds of members' contributions, reset timelines, and prevent further frustration among members.

Among the key provisions of the bill is its clarification of when applicant members should be refunded their employee contributions—now within 30 days of "submission" rather than within 30 days of "approval" as stated in the current law.

The bill also increases the percentage of the contribution that can be initially refunded—from the current 25 percent to 50 percent.

Joseph Pangelinan, representing active Fund members, told House members that he supports the bill.

## CRISOSTOMO

From Page 1

as of this time.

"As investigation progresses into these cases and when information is available and appropriate for disclosure I will let you know," the DPS spokesman said.

Hou and Huang were owners of the Ming-Hua Market in Dandan. Hou and Huang were found dead in separate areas in Kagman 3 on March 29 and 30, 1995.

A source disclosed that prior to the discovery of the couple's bodies, a woman was allegedly seen dropping off Crisostomo at Ming-Hua Market area at 8pm.

Crisostomo returned to his house later at 3am and "looked dirty." Cris-

tomo was allegedly carrying a backpack that contained thousands of cash, as well as boxes of cigarettes.

The source said that Crisostomo was a friend of the couple as he regularly visited the store to sell them some items.

According to police records, on March 29, 1995, at 10pm, police received a telephone call regarding a dead person in a Kagman III homestead lot leading down to Tank Beach.

Hou's body was found at the entrance gate of one of the homestead lots. His body had multiple gunshot wounds.

The following day, March 30, police officers found the body of Huang in an abandoned car in Kagman.

Autopsy showed that Hou died from a gunshot wound to the head. Like Romero, Huang died due to

strangulation.

Investigators found out that Ming-Hua Market was burglarized prior to the discovery of the bodies.

*Saipan Tribune* visited the store yesterday afternoon and found out that Ming-Hua Market was already closed and the new owners now called the establishment Saimei Market.

Crisostomo has also been linked to the killing of Bao Ying Chen whose naked body was found at Laulau Beach on Nov. 23, 2006. An autopsy determined that she died of asphyxiation by drowning.

Police arrested Crisostomo on Friday for the kidnapping and murder of Romero. Romero was reportedly kidnapped near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, FBI agents found her body at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis.

## AIRLINE

From Page 1

Saipan. It hopes to commence within months.

Papaya Air will be using the Federal Aviation Administration certificate of U.S.-based Dynamic Airways, which is permitted to fly to various U.S. states.

Deleon Guerrero said that CPA is just waiting for some modifications to the FAA certificate to include services to U.S. territories.

"Dynamic Airways is a U.S.-based carrier, whose permit allows flights in U.S. states. In order to service the CNMI, the company has to submit an amendment to FAA to include the territories...and that's the final document we're waiting for to move forward with

this project," he said.

The company has already obtained other requirements like liability insurance and incorporation, he added.

CPA is not aware of how much money Papaya Air is investing but Deleon Guerrero described communications with Papaya Air as "constant and continuous."

The new carrier, like other signatory airlines, will be provided a separate counter at the airport once everything is settled, he said.

He said the company initially aimed to make its maiden flight to the CNMI in January this year but this was postponed due to some delays in the needed requirements.

He said Papaya Air's bid to service the CNMI is welcome news because it will significantly boost the tourism industry and the CNMI economy as a whole.

If Papaya Air's service is realized, this will bring to four the Commonwealth's signatory airlines. The others are Asiana Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines.

In a visit to Papaya Air's office near Airport Road yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was informed by the company's information technology staff, Tim Zhang, that information about the project will be provided to media once it is made available by the company.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to contact Papaya Air general manager Yolanda Elliot but she has yet to issue a statement as of press time. Elliot is also the person listed as the contact for CPA.

On Feb. 15, Dynamic Airways posted job announcements seeking applicants for flight attendants and crew members.

Dela Cruz's HB 18-12 amends Public Law 17-82, which allows Fund members to, among others, withdraw their contributions without being penalized.

Only about 125 of 1,700 applications received got 25 percent of their employee contributions.

### 5 resolutions

The House also unanimously approved three resolutions and two joint resolutions.

Among them is Dela Cruz's House Joint Resolution 18-4, asking the governor and the AG to extradite Buckingham to answer the criminal charges

## Small craft, high surf advisories in effect

The CNMI Emergency Management Office issued yesterday small craft and high surf advisories, both of which will remain in effect until 4pm Thursday.

Seas of 10 feet or greater and frequent gusts of 22 knots or more are expected to produce conditions hazardous to operators of small craft.

Winds of 15 to 20 knots with frequent gusts to 25 knots will continue through Wednesday afternoon. Combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will persist through Thursday morning before subsiding to between 8 and 9 feet by Thursday evening.

The high surf advisory is in effect for north and east facing reefs.

Along north facing reefs, surf will reach hazardous levels of 7 to 9 feet before dawn. Surf is expected to stay at these levels through Thursday morning before gradually falling below advisory levels by Thursday evening.

EMO is advising the public, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. **(EMO)**

## AG

From Page 1

Office of the Attorney General before passing any appropriation legislation if and when it allocates money to pay any of the judgments because the sums listed "may have changed due to accrued interest or other factors."

"Prior consultation will also allow our office to alert the judgment creditor and consult or possibly negotiate a final satisfactory sum with the judgment creditor," the AG said.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) asked acting Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) whether each of the 17 cases or sets of creditors will be reviewed by House committees that have oversight over government entities responsible.

He cited the over \$5.9 million judgment the Department of Lands and Natural Resources owes Marine Revitalization Corp. and businessman Anthony Pellegrino, which he said could be reviewed by the House Natural Resources and Ways and Means committees.

"Perhaps we could look at land leases to pay for some of these," Tebuteb said.

Dela Cruz, who presided over the House session yesterday in the absence of Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), who was sick, tasked Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Antonio Benavente (IR-Saipan) and Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) to "look into the matter."

Tebuteb also cited the \$179,572.59 the Department of Public Works owes Felipe Q. Atalig, which he said could be reviewed by the Ways and Means and the Judiciary and Government Operations committees.

The Inos administration is looking at \$114 million in projected revenues

available for government operations for fiscal year 2014, the same level as that of 2013.

Based on the AG's list, the biggest amount owed is over \$11.43 million plus accruing interest, which the CNMI government needs to pay to the heirs of Managabao in the *CNMI v. Lot 353 New-G et al.*, Superior Court Civil No. 97-0266. The date of judgment was June 10, 2011.

The second highest is the \$5.9 million that DLNR needs to pay Pellegrino and MRC, followed by \$2.8 million that the central government needs to pay Joaquina Manglona. The latter's judgment date was Oct. 4, 2011.

Also awaiting payments from the government are: heirs of Rita Rogolifoi/Enrique K. Seman (\$2.69 million); Tano Group Inc. (\$972,915.54); Carmen I. Lizama/estate of Crescencio P. Manglona (\$960,000 plus accruing interest); Antonio Ch. Camacho (\$754,000 plus accruing interest); Larry T. Lacy/estate of Vincente S. Muna (\$568,966.82 plus accruing interest); Epison Land Inc. (\$386,381.97); and Jose Ch. Camacho (\$280,000 remaining plus accruing interest).

Also on the list are: Erit Fleming David II, Eric David and Tanya David (\$200,000); Soledad Cepeda Camacho, Roman DLG Cepeda, Consolacion Cepeda Sablan, Lutmina Cepeda Decherrong, Frank DLG Cepeda, Carmen Cepeda Reyes, Jesus DLG Cepeda and Delores DLG Cepeda (\$90,000); Luisa B. Quitugua (\$87,578.31 plus accruing interest); Cecilia T. Celes (34,250); Woosung Construction Co. (\$32,045); and Randall Fennel (\$20,000).

The responsible agencies are DLNR, DPW, Department of Public Lands, Office of the Governor, central government, and the Commonwealth Health Center.

# CUC: 64MW of energy now available on Saipan

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

A total of 64 megawatts of electricity is now available for Saipan customers even as the island's peak demand is a mere 30 megawatts, according to Alan Fletcher, acting executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In a recently submitted report to the Executive Branch, Fletcher said this significant progress in power generation was the result of several actions taken by CUC, among them the completion of top-end overhaul work

## Ayuyu's 3rd request for release denied anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied yesterday Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (R-Rota) request to be released pending trial on a \$20,000 cash bail and property.

Manglona remanded the 48-year-old Ayuyu into the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

There will be a pretrial conference on March 11, 2013, at 1pm. Jury trial will begin on April 1, 2013.

At yesterday's hearing, the judge noted that this is the third time for the senator to ask for a pretrial release.

Manglona ruled that the U.S. government has met the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence to continue detaining Ayuyu pending trial.

Manglona cited the need to keep Ayuyu under detention to ensure the safety of possible witnesses.

The judge said she has now the additional information that a cell phone was found in the Ayuyu's possession while he was detained last month. This incident, the judge noted, occurred after the court denied Ayuyu's request for pretrial release.

The incident, the judge pointed out, is a concern whether Ayuyu will obey court orders if granted pretrial release.

Defense attorney Joaquin Torres said it is very difficult for him to go to Corrections every day to talk with Ayuyu in preparing for trial. He said Ayuyu was not aware that it was illegal for him to keep a cell phone at DOC.

He asked the court to release Ayuyu to third-party custodians after posting cash bail and property, plus other conditions.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe opposed the motion.

Ayuyu is facing criminal charges in two indictments over an alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan on Oct. 17, 2010, concealing the fruit bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemon.

for engines 5 and 7 at Power Plant 1. The overhaul work included installation of new six cylinder liners.

Also completed is the major engine overhaul for engine 6, which included replacing 18 cylinder liners and 14 pistons.

CUC also improved the net fuel efficiency of engines 5, 6, 7, and 8. Work included rerouting the lube oil supply line for these engines inside the bulk oil containment area to make way for the construction of a new tank.

Fletcher disclosed that agency crews also carried out annual maintenance work on the 50MVA [megavolt ampere] transformers at both Power Plant 1 and Kiya substations.

Contracts were also awarded for the supply of spare parts and equipment for projects funded

by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act. These equipment and parts amounted to \$4.4 million for generator sets at Power Plant 1.



Fletcher

### Tampering

To date, CUC's Operation Sweep has identified 10 electric meter tampering and eight meter bypasses while 25 unregistered streetlights were disconnected, Fletcher said. These alone could save the cash-strapped corporation 27,000 kWh in savings.

Fletcher also reported the completion of 57 work orders and 98 job orders during the fourth quarter.

For the Net Metering Program, Fletcher said that seven new net metering solar systems were installed during the fourth quarter totaling 42 CUC net metering accounts. Of this number,

## CPA runway rehab project now 84 pct. complete

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The long wait for the rehabilitation of the main runway of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is almost over following disclosure that the project is approaching its final phase and will be competed in August this year.

Edward Deleon Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the project is now 84 percent complete and will be functional 24/7 starting this year.

The Federal Aviation Administration is shouldering the full cost of the project, which last year totaled \$32 million.

The main runway rehabilitation was approved in 2009 but construction was interrupted in March 2012 due to some concerns.

Saipan airport's main runway, or Runway 7/25, is over 25 years old.

The project consists of rehabilitating the main runway and narrowing its width from 200 feet to 150 feet based on FAA requirements, relocation of runway lights, posting of signs and markings, and restoring Runway 6/24 back to a parallel taxi.

From the last tentative schedule of project completion by May 2013, Deleon Guerrero said the new schedule is now set for August this year.

### » Full operation scheduled in August

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP: RFP13-CHCC-078**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2013      TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“ENTERPRISE CONTENT MANAGEMENT  
SOFTWARE DEPLOYMENT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH  
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ **JUAN N. BABAUTA**      /S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
CEO – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.      DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP13-DPL-085**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30,  
2012 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 27, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO PEDRO I. ITIBUS, ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS AT [pete@dppl.gov.mp](mailto:pete@dppl.gov.mp) OR TO MS. ROSALINDA J. AYUYU AT [rayuyu@dppl.gov.mp](mailto:rayuyu@dppl.gov.mp) OR BY FAX TO (670) 234-3755 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, ON MARCH 19, 2013.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**      /S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS      DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

35 are still pending approval.

CUC also initiated the bid package for advertisement of the third phase of the LED (light emitting diode) streetlight fixture retrofit project for Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota, Fletcher said.

“New streetlights will add to the existing 2,373 LED streetlight fixtures previously installed in Phase 1 and 2. It is anticipated that the third phase will include 300 fixtures and further reduce the electrical consumption by 110MW, each resulting

in an additional \$69,800 annual savings,” stated Fletcher.

CUC also completed the Obyan Overhead Line Extension project in November, extending the Kiya 1 circuit by 22 power poles and providing property owners in the area electrical service for the first time.



### COURTESY VISIT

Newly sworn in Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, center, receives a courtesy visit Monday from Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, right, and his chief of staff and CNMI historian Don Farrell, left, on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

any more extension of the project,” he added.

Based on the agency's records, construction work was temporarily suspended in March 2012 following discovery of problems that warrants a new design.

Deleon Guerrero also disclosed the recent completion of the airport's emergency generator upgrade, another FAA-funded project.

This undertaking involved

installing a 1.8-megawatt generator for the main airport power supply and two 750 KVA generators for backup power to the air traffic control tower and airport fire station.

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-13-015

### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for , American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com) and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email [charles\\_warren@cucgov.org](mailto:charles_warren@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ **ALAN W. FLETCHER**  
Acting Executive Director

# CNMI to offer Mass for Pope Benedict XVI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is urging the Catholic faithful on island to attend a special Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI.

The Mass will be held at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa at 6am on Thursday, Feb. 28—the last day of Pope Benedict XVI as the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

Fr. Ryan P. Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the diocese, said yesterday that the special Mass will be offered in thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI's leadership.



Benedict XVI

"The clergy of the diocese will concelebrate with Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho at this Eucharistic celebration," he said.

Jimenez said the Mass is also

in response to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' recommendation that special prayers be offered for the Holy Father.

"This is an opportunity for us to be one in prayer with the universal Church. At Mass, when we profess 'one, holy, catholic, apostolic' Church—this gesture of praying together at the cathedral on the day of the Pope's resignation is our gesture of unity, through prayer, with Catholics all over the world," he explained.

"As we thank and pray for Pope Benedict XVI, we also invoke on the Holy Spirit's continuing guidance, especially in the upcoming conclave," added Jimenez.

## Zoning ramps up efforts to amend law

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Zoning Office is poised to have the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation act on its proposed text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogomoro informed the board during its Thursday meeting that they already began the process by having Rep. Richard B. Seman (R-Saipan) pre-file the bill last week.

Board secretary Gus Kaipat, however, said that the bill had to be returned to Seman's office "because it was not in

proper format."

According to Kaipat, the legislative staff requested Seman's office to submit the bill following their official format.

Kaipat said that Seman's office will work on the request and have the congressman sign it when he comes back this week from an off-island trip.

Efforts to get the Zoning Office's proposed amendments approved was stalled following former representative Stanley Torres' submission of his own version of zoning amendments through HLB 17-26, which would have made massive

changes to the zoning law.

Citing significant legal concerns, particularly "spot zoning," then governor Benigno R. Fitial vetoed the bill on March 22.

Board chair Diego Blanco also tasked the Zoning Office to get a bill pre-filed on their proposal to relocate poker arcades.

Ogomoro said their office is also working on their budget submission for fiscal year 2014. All government expenditure authorities are required to submit by Feb. 28 their proposed budget and spending plans for the period covering Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014.

While there won't be other 6am Masses in other parishes on island, Jimenez said that Rota and Tinian islands will offer Masses on the same day and for the same intention.

"It would be good for Catholics in the CNMI to express unity and solidarity with the entire

Catholic church through prayer on this special day," Jimenez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Jimenez noted that Pope Benedict XVI's resignation coincides with the Lenten season, which he described as "a special time for prayer."

"With the many challenges

that the Catholic Church is faced with nowadays, we all need to pray together. We need to pray harder. We are a small diocese here in the CNMI but we are very much affected with what is going on in Rome and other dioceses worldwide," added Jimenez.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Friends of the Arts sets auditions for 'Miss Saigon'

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's *Miss Saigon* on May 3, 4, and 5. Interested performers and would-be performers are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School on Tuesday, March 12, from 6pm to 8pm. Copies of the script can be picked up for viewing at the Dolphin Theater on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 26-27, and at the MHS Main Office secretary Thursday and Friday, Feb 28 and March 1. (PR)

### New business hours for the Health & Vital Statistics Office

As part of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s commitment to providing quality services to the public, effective Feb. 19, 2013, the Office of Health & Vital Statistics' new business hours of operations is as follows: Mondays to Fridays, 7:30am to 4:30pm and will remain open during lunch hours. For more information, call the Health & Vital Statistics Office at 236-8717/8703. (CHCC)

### SHRM presents 'Luncheon With the AG'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting tomorrow, Feb. 28, 2013, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Pacific Island Club's Charley's Cabaret. It will include a presentation by Attorney General JP San Nicolas. This presentation is open to the public.

The meeting includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Malou Jardinero at 234-7171 local 1518 or e-mail her at malou\_jardinero@tanholdings.com. (SHRM)

### Bowling Nite on Friday

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join Bowling Nite on Friday, March 1, 2013, at Capital Bowling across Garapan Elementary School at 7pm. For more information or inquiry, give a call to Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)

### Aquarius Beach Tower sets cleanup

Aquarius Beach Tower will

be having a beach cleanup on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013, from 8am to 9:30am. The community is encouraged to stop by the hotel and help us clean up Chalan Kanoa Beach. Bring your recycled bags. For more information, call Aquarius Beach Tower at 235-6025. (PR)

### Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 25 from 7pm to 5am, Feb. 26 and 28 from 7pm to 11:45pm, and March 1 from 7pm to 11:45pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 26 and 27 from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

### Bank of Guam scholarships deadline

Just over two weeks remain for applications to be submitted for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship. Applications are available for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship, which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna branch lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted. (BOG)

### UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Papers and posters may be submitted under the following general categories: Ancient History; Early Colonial (17th-18th

centuries); Late Colonial (19th – early 20th centuries) World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogical Research.

Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220, thus early registration is highly recommended. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit [www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference](http://www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference), or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). (UOG)

### Schools invited to Academic Challenge Bowl

The Marianas High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be hosting the elementary-level Academic Challenge Bowl on April 6, 2013, a Saturday.

All public and private elementary schools are invited to participate in this event. Each participating school will need to form a team consisting of five students from grade four to six.

If your school is interested in joining this islandwide competition, confirm your participation by March 15, 2013, by faxing (664-3805), calling, or emailing NHS advisers Lorraine Catienza at 237-3282 or [lorraine.catienza@cnmipss.org](mailto:lorraine.catienza@cnmipss.org) or Dr. Chas Algaier at 237-3219 or [chas.algaier@cnmispss.org](mailto:chas.algaier@cnmispss.org). (PR)

### ARC Preparedness Health & Safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Feb. 27 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED
- Feb. 28 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit [www.redcross.org/take-a-class](http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class). (PR)



### FIRST CABINET MEETING

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, with Coastal Resources Management's Rita Chong after the first Cabinet meeting held under the new Inos administration at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill Thursday last week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Last Marines arrive, all Guahan Shield personnel here

**DEDEDO, Guam**—The last members of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division arrived here Feb. 25, rounding out the final personnel deployed to Guam in support of Exercise Guahan Shield.

Okinawa-based Marines and sailors with III Marine Expeditionary Force will be training on Guam from now until May, conducting various training evolutions, on existing training facilities.

Training opportunities during Guahan Shield affords III MEF Marines and sailors unique expeditionary training opportunities and environments, as well as facilitates interactions with the local communities on Guam and the surrounding Mariana Islands through community engagements and community relations projects.

Marines and sailors are thoroughly trained to meet their mission requirements. Guahan Shield enables III

MEF forces to expand upon and increase their proficiency in those skills using the unique training environments Guam offers.

III MEF regularly conducts training throughout the Asia-Pacific region; however Guam provides additional, unique training environments on U.S. soil and a chance for service members to learn about the extensive historical relevance of the island and the Chamorro culture. (PR)

# Instant Tease launches CD, gears up for concerts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Following a successful weekend CD launch, music group Instant Tease is now preparing for their upcoming off-island concerts.

Band member Walter Manglona said Monday that their schedule will take them to Guam this summer and Japan in November.

Instant Tease is composed of Tommyboy Atalig, Cliff "Punjab" Atalig, John "RokJuan" Guerrero, Dean Manglona, Walter Manglona, and Benjamin Norita.

"The sky is the limit for us. We can only hope for the best but we still have ways to go," Walter Manglona said in an email response.

Droves of music fans gathered at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Feb. 23 for Instant Tease's free concert to promote their eponymous first album, and Manglona said the turnout was more than what the group expected.

"We are so grateful and humbled to have the privilege to entertain our fans here at home. So from the bottom of our hearts, we would like to say thank you to all our sponsors, fans, family, and friends for making the event a big



A fan joins members of Instant Tease for a photo during the group's concert last Saturday at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

success," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saturday's concert was made

possible by Pacific Trading, IT&E, Hollywood Theaters, R&M Print-

ers, Tropical Blendz, Salbahe, Jade Pro Studios, Docomo, the

man'amko, Marianas Visitors Authority, Trench Tech All-Stars,

Joshua Q. Castro, LJ Castro, Paul Demapan, Samy Atalig, Tina Palacios, and Power 99 DJs.

Copies of the Instant Tease CD were also sold during the event. Manglona said those who were unable to buy the "limited edition" CD at the concert can grab a copy at Power 99 at Paseo de Marianas for only \$12 each.

"Most of the CDs will be shipped to Guam by the end of this week. Instant Tease album available for a limited time only so please hurry and get your very own copy soon," he said.

Manglona said he is also excited as his cousin Lawrence "Hafa Stone" Hocog invited him to perform in Washington and Oregon later this year.

He is also working with a music producer from Los Angeles on an original song that will be submitted to one of the labels with which the producer is associated.

While doing so, Manglona said Instant Tease will continue to inspire the islands' youth "and hopefully keep them on a straight and narrow path to a successful future."

"Keep believing and you can accomplish anything. One Love 670!" he added.

## DEQ brigade sets Pau Pau Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Pau Pau Beach, San Roque on Saturday, March 2, 2013, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the Pau Pau Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participat-

ed in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade t-shirt.

Last month's Makaka Beach Cleanup drew 70 volunteers, mostly students from Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Northern Marianas Academy, Saipan International School, Saipan Southern YEA Club, staff from the Zoning Office, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Health Center, residents from

Capital Hill, Chinatown, and others. About 880 lbs of trash, marine debris, and a mattress was removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

The DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday, so join DEQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

## Male nurses becoming more commonplace—Census

The nursing profession remains overwhelmingly female, but the representation of men has increased as the demand for nurses has grown over the last several decades, according to a U.S. Census Bureau study released yesterday.

The new study shows the proportion of male registered nurses has more than tripled since 1970, from 2.7 percent to 9.6 percent, and the proportion of male licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses has more than doubled from 3.9 percent to 8.1 percent.

The study, Men in Nursing Occupations, presents data from the 2011 American Community Survey to analyze the percentage of men in each of the detailed nursing occupations: registered nurse, nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurse. The study also provide estimates on a wide range of characteristics of men and women in nursing occupations. These include employment status, age, race, Hispanic origin, citizenship, educational attainment, work hours, time of departure to work, median earnings, industry and class of worker.

"The aging of our population has fueled an increasing demand for long-term care and end-of-life services," said the report's author, Liana Christin Landivar, a sociologist in the Census Bureau's Industry and Occupation Statistics Branch. "A predicted shortage has led to recruiting and retraining efforts to increase the pool of nurses. These efforts have included recruiting men into nursing."

Men typically outearn wom-

en in nursing fields but not by as much as they do across all occupations. For example, women working as nurses full time, year-round earned 91 cents for every dollar male nurses earned; in contrast, women earned 77 cents to the dollar men earned across all occupations.

Because the demand for skilled nursing care is so high, nurses have very low unemployment rates. Unemployment was lowest among nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists (about 0.8 percent for both). For registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, these rates were a bit

higher, but still very low, at 1.8 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively.

Other highlights:

■ There were 3.5 million employed nurses in 2011, about 3.2 million of whom were female and 330,000 male.

■ Of the employed nurses (both sexes), 78 percent were registered nurses, 19 percent were licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, 3 percent were nurse practitioners, and 1 percent were nurse anesthetists.

■ While most registered nurses (both sexes) left home for work between 5am and 11:59am (72 percent), a sizable minority (19 percent) worked the evening or night shifts.

■ The majority of registered nurses (both sexes) worked in hospitals (64 percent). The majority of licensed practical

and licensed vocational nurses worked in nursing care facilities or hospitals (about 30 percent each). The percentages for hospitals and nursing care facilities are not significantly different from each other.

■ In 2011, 9 percent of all nurses were men while 91 percent were women. Men earned, on average, \$60,700 per year, while women earned \$51,100 per year.

■ Men's representation was highest among nurse anesthetists at 41 percent.

■ Male nurse anesthetists earned more than twice as much as the male average for all nursing occupations: \$162,900 versus \$60,700.

The American Community Survey provides a wide range of important statistics about people and housing for every community across the nation. The results are used by everyone from town and city planners to retailers and homebuilders. The survey is the only source of local estimates for most of the 40 topics it covers, such as education, occupation, language, ancestry and housing costs for even the smallest communities. Ever since Thomas Jefferson directed the first census in 1790, the census has collected detailed characteristics about our nation's people. Questions about jobs and the economy were added 20 years later under James Madison, who said such information would allow Congress to "adapt the public measures to the particular circumstances of the community," and over the decades allow America "an opportunity of marking the progress of the society." (US Census)

## List for part-time magistrate judge narrowed to 5

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's merit selection panel has already submitted the top five names for the position of a combined clerk of court/part-time magistrate judge.

The federal court's chief deputy clerk, William Bezzant, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the panel submitted the five names to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

"It is a standard method in appointing a magistrate throughout federal courts," Bezzant said.

The names of all applicants are confidential.

After interviewing the top five applicants, the judge will select one. The chosen one

will be subjected to extensive background investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After the FBI investigation, the judge will then make the appointment for a four-year term.

Magistrate judges perform a wide range of duties in criminal and civil matters such as

hearing pretrial motions, conducting settlement and pretrial conferences, and handling most pre-trial matters.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has authorized the combined clerk of court/part-time magistrate judge position for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The federal court started accepting applicants on Jan. 7, 2013, and closed it on Jan. 25, 2013.

Manglona appointed District Court of Guam clerk of court Jeanne G. Quinata to chair the merit selection panel. Attorney F. Matthew Smith and former federal court clerk of court Galo Perez were named members. Manglona directed the panel to file a report with the court on Feb. 15.

The report, the judge said, shall specify the five applicants the panel has determined as best qualified for the position.

"The court may accept a list containing fewer than five names for good cause shown by the panel in its report," Manglona said in her general order issued last month.



Manglona

# Winners galore at 9th Tinian Hot Pepper Fest

Hundreds of revelers turned out to celebrate the spicy and delicious 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16-17, 2013.

The annual President's Day weekend celebration held in honor of donni sali, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island, offered the perfect blend of island partying at the festival grounds and quiet escape at isolated beaches and back roads.

Brave souls and Tinian natives Corey Jess San Nicolas and Tina Marie San Nicolas topped the hot pepper eating competition in the men's and

women's categories, respectively, each walking away \$150 richer for their efforts.

In the *estafao pika* (spicy beef stew) cooking competition, Carla Aldan received the winning nod from judges for her flavorful blend incorporating the celebrated pepper, while Renato Esteban chomped his way to 1st place in the JC Café Pika-licious Burger Eating Contest.

In the popular *umang* (hermit crab) race, a number of youngsters pitted their shelled competitors against each other on a wooden track. In four sets, first place went to Brayden John

Santos, Cassidy Dela Cruz, Joseph Cing, and Kimo Adriano.

In more vigorous efforts, the team of the Tinian Mayor's Office topped the dragon boat race, team La Pica Loca hammered the beach volleyball win, Fritz San Nicolas took first in the tug of war, and Susan Macaranas danced away with 1st place in the cha-cha contest.

Rounding out the weekend of fun and festivity, Lorelina Saralu won top honors in the *mwarmwar* (Carolinian head lei) making competition, and Mariana Cruz pocketed \$150 for having the best-decorated

booth at the venue.

The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is held on Presidents Day weekend in February was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and co-sponsored by the Tinian Mayor's Office, 13th Tinian Municipal Council, Department of Public Safety (Traffic/Boating Section), Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, KKMP, J.C. Café, MARPAC, Star Marianas Airlines, IT&E, Lucky Qiang Market, Star Marine Sports and Fleming Hotel. (MVA)



▲ Participating chefs at the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 1-17, 2013, in the Northern Mariana Islands.

◀ An entry in the *estafao pika* (spicy beef stew) cooking competition during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 16-17, 2013.

▼ Contestants get ready to start the hot pepper eating competition during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the Northern Mariana Islands on Feb. 16-17, 2013.



## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 27, 2004

### 'No need for oversight hearing on NMC'

House Education Committee chairman Justo Quitugua said yesterday that he has no plans to subject the Northern Marianas College to an oversight hearing, despite information he gathered confirming the institution's serious financial woes. "We're not going to do an oversight. We want to give the college more opportunity to refocus," said Quitugua. The lawmaker pointed out that it has become a practice that, whenever a big problem arises, affected agencies have a tendency to throw the problem to the Legislature for it to help solve the problem.

### Panel sets 'stateless bill' public hearings

The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations has set three separate public hearings next week on the bill addressing the 'stateless' status of over 200 individuals born in the Commonwealth between 1978 and 1986. Committee Vice Chairman Jesus SN. Lizama has released the schedule of hearings: March 3, 6pm on Tinian at the Tinian courthouse; March 4, 6pm on Saipan at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe; and March 5, 6pm on Rota at the Rota courthouse. The hearing will center on House Bill 14-97 or the proposal to declare all children of alien workers born between Jan. 9, 1978 and Nov. 4, 1986 permanent residents of the CNMI.

Feb. 27, 2005

### Manglona wants LB director position advertised

Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures chairman Sen. Paul M. Manglona recommends putting out of an advertisement to announce the vacancies and the hiring for a Legislative Bureau director and deputy director. He said this is necessary to give qualified local residents "a fair and equitable opportunity to apply." This, however, is a departure from the usual procedures. Under the Constitution, the director shall be "appointed by the joint leadership of the Legislature consisting of the presiding officers, vice presiding officers, floor leaders, and chairmen of standing committees."

### Tenorio follows up on federal tax law issues

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has asked the Department of the Interior to bring up during an upcoming plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas the issue of a possible loss of revenues for the CNMI and other territories arising from a newly enacted federal tax law. Tenorio, in a Feb. 24 letter to Insular Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen, said the enactment of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 poses significant risks to the tax structure and fiscal integrity of the CNMI. In particular, Section 908 of the Act changes the requirements in determining residency and source of income in such a way that persons currently paying taxes in the CNMI would have a tax liability with the federal government.

Feb 27, 2006

### DoF: \$296K bounced checks uncollectible

Due to inaction, the CNMI government may no longer collect almost \$300,000 worth of bounced checks issued to the Department of Finance since 1983. The administration has determined that the total amount of uncollected checks currently under the Finance Department is \$599,440. However, \$296,230 will have to be written off due to the expiration of the six-year statute of limitations. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the Commonwealth Returned Check Enforcement Program, which seeks to resolve many long-standing checks that have been paid to the CNMI dating back to 1983, will focus on the collection of the remaining \$303,209.

### AGO to tighten rules in issuance of IR permits

Revisions will be made on the proposed regulations on "sham marriage" following a public hearing last week, Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said Friday. According to Gregory, the sizeable crowd that attended Wednesday evening's public hearing was supportive of the draft regulations, which would tighten rules governing sponsorships and the issuance of Immediate Relative permits. "The participants in the public hearing agreed that we need to be tougher on marriages and scrutinize marriages (between U.S. citizens and aliens). A lot of the individuals there talked about how they knew of individuals that were engaged in sham marriage. They want to some action," he said. But he added that the issue was sensitive in relation to the degree the CNMI government should inquire into people's private lives.

# Island Snapshots

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

## READ ALOUD PROGRAM

Nicole Schafer, Coastal Resources Management's education and outreach coordinator, has her picture taken with children after a Read Aloud & Craft activity at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Feb. 2. Close to 40 children listened to Schafer read *Starfish* by Edith Hurd and *Seashore* by Lucy Beckett-Browann.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Children participating in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Read Aloud & Craft activity on Feb. 2 take part in art activities to better understand the books that were read. The age of the listeners ranged from as young as 11 months old up to fifth graders. Read Aloud & Craft is one of the many continuing programs at JKPL.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## COURTESY VISIT

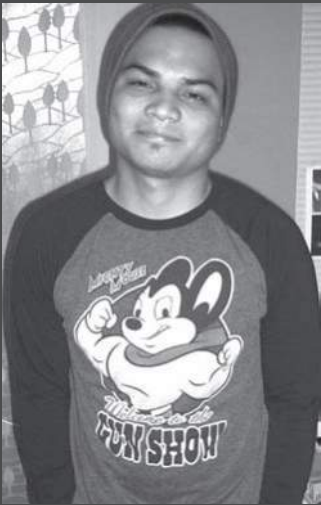
Col. John E. Cardwell, second from right, commander of the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army Pacific, visited Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday on his first trip to the CNMI since assuming his new post last month. Cardwell succeeded Brig. Gen. Michelle G. Compton. The 9th MSC oversees Army Reserve units in Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Alaska, and the U.S. Pacific territories, which includes the CNMI. Also in photo are CNMI Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Edward Manibusan, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Yamamoto, left, of the 9th MSC.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to the man I love, Lionel "Boom-boom" Borja! May God continue to bless you with many more birthdays to come! Love, Cheilz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to a truly inspirational man, Benjamin Paul T. Manglona—the greatest husband, father, and firefighter that we know and love! May you get all that you deserve in life, for all your selfless acts, kind deeds, and hardworking ways, for all that you are and for all that you have done for us, we are forever grateful. Happy birthday and we love you! Greetings come from your wife Kianna and children Kayhana Faith, Trey, and Tate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Treat Chinese hacking as a serious threat

One of the biggest difficulties in building America's defenses against predatory computer hacking is that relatively few people seem to take it seriously, as if it's the work of a few nerdy high schoolers and merry pranksters. Recent news about systematic computer espionage by the Chinese military should serve as a wake-up call about this critical national security threat.

The government and major corporations have long been reluctant to acknowledge major computer security breaches. What good are the billions of dollars they've spent to beef up security if hackers still manage to get through? Col. Cedric Leighton, a retired Air Force intelligence officer, told Bloomberg News last month that hacking costs the United States up to \$500 billion a year, yet Congress still lacks a sense of urgency about the threat.

This has to change. Evidence abounds that China and other nations have penetrated America's best computer defenses and gained access to networks controlling air traffic, power grids, nuclear generators and classified Pentagon files. Corporations such as Apple, Google, The New York Times, Coca-Cola and Lockheed-Martin have acknowledged breaches.

So far, much of China's probing appears aimed at mapping out how the pieces of the American puzzle fit together and finding shortcuts to duplicate American technology. American newspapers that report on China have been hacked in an apparent effort to identify reporters' sources.

Foreign governments also want to know where our vulnerabilities lie. In the unlikely event of war, the first strike might not come in the form of a nuclear launch but rather a stealthy shutdown of the infrastructure that makes America work. The United States conducts such activity, too, as was evident in the 2010 Stuxnet computer attack on Iran's nuclear program.

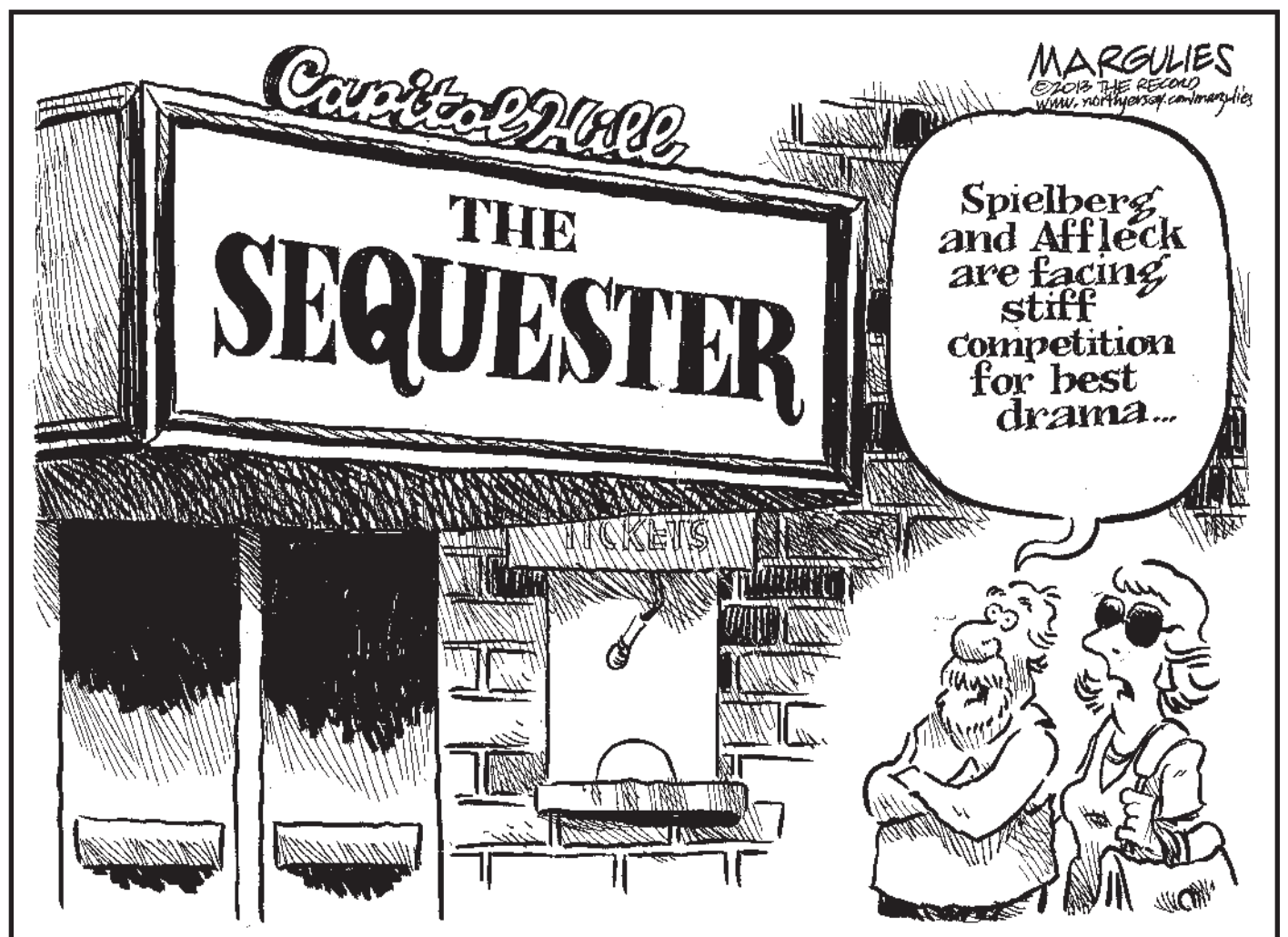
China is very sensitive to hacking accusations, and the government denies any involvement. An investigation by Mandiant, a U.S. computer security firm, determined the Chinese military used diversionary tactics, such as entering via university network servers, to disguise its activities.

Use of university servers might not be coincidental. China is second only to Mexico in the number of U.S. immigrant visas issued, with 40,000 issued to Chinese citizens last year, according to the State Department. Chinese students form a disproportionately large share of the foreign student population and are second only to India in enrollment in science, technology and math specialties.

If there's a chance that Chinese students are helping their government gain a spying foothold, the U.S. government would be justified in threatening to sharply curtail student and other visas unless Beijing comes clean and pledges to stop.

The threat from China is credible. Any retaliatory threat from the United States must be credible enough to ensure we have Beijing's undivided attention.

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## Dong Bei seedless orange

Back to old Mukden of Russia and Japan's *Manchukuo*, Manchuria of the old Qing Dynasty, aka, *Dong Bei* (literally, east north). The identification does not make the place dissimilar from the rest of the Han in *Zhongguo*, but for those interested in pinning down what is core "Chinese," I locate them to peoples between the two rivers of the Huang He (Yellow) and the Chiang Jiang (Yantze).

Beijing, north of the Yellow River, and Nanjing, south of the Yantze, the nation's old bookends, point to the core center of governance. Xi'an in Shaanxi hosts the Qin Emperor's tomb with the terracotta soldiers. Kunming of Yunnan south down the road to Mandalay, Urumqi in Xinjiang way out west bordering the Co-sacks, Lasha in southwest Xizang (Tibet) of the highland Buddha, and Harbin, Heilongjiang of the northeast Manchus, are outer lands away from the Han core.

Kong Fu Zi (Confucius) is from Shandong southeast of Hebei where the national municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin are geographically situated. (China has four; Chongqing and Shanghai are the other two.) Current CCP SG Xi Jinping and soon-to-be President hails from Shaanxi, at the core of the Han.

Let me just rehearse previous notes for newcomers to this column. "China" is the term familiar to the West as mainland Asia. The name comes from the Qin dynasty that unified China in the 3rd century BC. The Persians who flourished in trade along the Silk Road gave the name after the Han initiated the network that sold silk, tea, and porcelain. Plates and cupboard ware in Europe are referred to as "china".

China does not refer to itself as the land of the Qin. Marco Polo popularized it in Europe after he returned from his exploits in the land of the Han. It got stuck in global discourse. Though they do refer to themselves as Chinese in English, they call themselves *Zhongguoren*, the people of the middle state.

The nation is officially *Zhongguo*, the middle realm, a term first used before the Qin emperor unified the warring states, signifying the culture's grounding on space. (Tokyo is still referred to as Dongjing, the east city). In contrast, Europe and its progeny are pre-occupied with time, journeyed into the journey of the Holy Roman Empire. Pope Gregory's version of *Anno Domini* after correcting the Julian calendar in 1583 has since dominated the global timeline.

But a discourse on space and time is not our concern. Grounding of human existence in experience is. Life is neither lived in the longing of a "before" of a previous era, or an "after" in a heavenly paradise, but rather in the here-and-now, of wonder-filled mysteries and challenging ambiguities, awe-inspiring treasures and endless delights.

After the sweet-and-sour taste of our *calamansi*-laced papaya on our 30-day Honolulu sojourn, we anticipated the taste of the seedless orange consumed during the 15-day Lunar New Year fest, ending on the day of our return.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergara2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergara2031@aol.com)) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



For awhile, the trip from Honolulu to Shenyang via Incheon was mostly sweet lychee, abundantly served by the hotel where our airline billeted us to tide us overnight before proceeding to Shenyang the following day.

Sour came when airport security would not let us through; our hand-carry weighed more than the allotted 12 lbs. We had to secure an airline tag. The line was long. *Zhongguoren* who missed the first day return home New Year went on the 15th day. The Incheon-Shenyang flight was full and my request for the exit door netted a first-class seat on the second floor of the 747-400 aircraft!

With long lines going through Customs on arrival, the officers decided to forgo the customary x-ray of luggage coming into the country and, dragging checked-in heavy duffel bags, the procedure was welcomed. We exited the airport before midday.

A former student who worked on network communication for 20 days during the vacation decided to take his family and some friends to dinner to celebrate his first paycheck as well as cap the season's festivities. I had a pickup message for 4pm. Though dinner was already past midnight in my internal time, I stayed awake through the pleasantries, with many "thank you" for the uncharacteristic cloudless day, a first in a long while I was told, "brought" by my return.

Lightheaded after a bottle of Harbin beer, I took the subway with the maddening crowd just when the firework was getting intense. Transferring to a bus and a walk of five blocks to my residence, I basked in the lantern day focus of the festivities. A city brightly lit did not skimp on electricity.

I was also back in the cold with the longjohn for undies. Involuntary tear duct flow is my natural response to cold. I violently sneezed when I returned to my room's warmth; grabbed a tissue to blow my nose. That's when I noticed blood.

Ooops! After four vials of blood drawn for all kinds of tests in Hawaii, and an ensuing clean bill of health, it looks like I might have to see a medical practitioner again. Meanwhile, the sky firework was visual art *par excellence*, watched in the comfort of my 11th floor room. White stuff started descending from the sky later in the night. I peeled off a petite seedless sweet-with-a-dab-of-sour orange.

I woke up in the morning to a blanket of snow on the ground. Happy New Year!

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Corruption at the national level

While the islands sooth its shock at the abrupt resignation of former governor Benigno R. Fitial, I thought I'd probe the hill on the other side of the Pacific Divide to see the latest scandals.

I mean there are chuckles when an IG at the Department of the Interior found the use of \$280,000 in taxpayer money to renovate a restroom at the residence of a higher up. It's sufficient funds to actually buy a new luxury home in nearby Maryland. I'd like to visit that venue to see if there's anything I've missed in a restroom.

But I came across a larger scandal dug up by national columnist and author Michelle Malkin on Dr. Salomon Melgen, the "jet-setting Florida eye doctor who flew beleaguered Sen. Bob Menendez, (D-NJ) to several alleged sex romps in the Dominican Republic, who overbilled the government by \$8.9 million for care at his clinic. That's according to Menendez's own aides. They acknowledged last week that their boss met with federal health bureaucrats at least twice to lobby on Melgen's behalf.

"Federal investigators and healthcare auditors have had concerns about Melgen's billing practices at various times over the past decade," according to two former federal officials who spoke to *The Washington Post*. "In part, they have examined the volume of eye injections, surgeries and laser treatments performed at his West Palm Beach clinic."

"Now, brace yourselves. A Menendez aide says that while Sen. Sleaze-Bob intervened, he didn't know nuttin' about Melgen being under investigation. Just like he didn't know nuttin' about his longtime aide working for Melgen's port security firm in the Dominican Republic, on whose behalf Sen. Sleaze-Bob also intervened.

"And just like he didn't know nuttin' about yet another ride on Melgen's plane in 2008 (exposed this week by the conservative *Daily Caller*), which he forgot to disclose to the Senate.

"Senate Democratic leaders have done nuttin' to prevent Menendez, who also sits on the Senate Finance Committee overseeing Medicare, from playing a prominent role in Medicare reform negotiations while Melgen's Medicare fraud investigation unfolds."

Here on the islands, corruption, real or perceived, has blossomed over the last three decades. Some were caught while others have fallen through the cracks as local and federal law enforcement folks

keep "people of interest" on their radar screen. I could feel what I have coined the "new industry" permeating our backyards before dawn, reappearing at dusk and evaporating silently as the sunset disappears out west. It has that pungent odor in the air that spells trouble ahead for these lively characters. No worries! I'm still and will continue to be a public conscience spectator.

■ ■ ■

### Obama overlooks failed leadership

This Friday, a dramatic new federal policy is set to go into effect that threatens U.S. national economy, security, jobs, health, education and more, according to John Boehner, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"In a bit of irony, President Obama stood Tuesday with first responders who could lose their jobs if the policy goes into effect. Most Americans are just hearing about this Washington creation for the first time: the sequester. What they might not realize from Mr. Obama's statements are that it is a product of the president's own failed leadership.

"The sequester is a wave of deep spending cuts scheduled to hit on March 1. Unless Congress acts, \$85 billion in across-the-board cuts will occur this year, with another \$1.1 trillion coming over the next decade. There is nothing wrong with cutting spending that much—we should be cutting even more—but the sequester is an ugly and dangerous way to do it.

"By law, the sequester focuses on the narrow portion of the budget that funds the operating accounts for federal agencies and departments, including the Department of Defense. Exempt is most entitlement spending—the large portion of the budget that is driving the nation's looming debt crisis. Should the sequester take effect, America's military budget would be slashed nearly half a trillion dollars over the next 10 years. Border security, law enforcement, aviation safety and many other programs would all have diminished resources."

How did the country find itself in this mess?

While Obama does his socialistic rain dance bent on shredding the U.S. Constitution with his socialistic agenda, he dons the role of an instigator failing to admit that the sequester was his personal creation. He mouths off loosely while fiscal hawks warn that the

## Graduation gaps imperil dropout progress

By **ROBERT BALFANZ** and **JOHN BRIDGELAND**  
CIVIC ENTERPRISES

The nation's high school dropout challenge is no longer a silent epidemic and many of America's dropout factories are closing or being retooled. Our annual update to the nation provides both encouraging evidence that reform efforts are bearing fruit and disturbing news about the graduation gaps that remain.

The most recent data show that the nation has experienced the first significant growth in high school graduation rates in 40 years. Pushed forward by a five percentage point gain between 2006 and 2010, the country is finally on pace to reach the national goal of a 90 percent high school graduation rate.

Students who graduated in 2010 entered high school in 2006, when efforts to reform large, low-performing high schools that produced the most dropouts were intensifying. Examples of states, districts and schools making significant gains in graduation rates are growing, from Tennessee and Alabama, to the cities of New York and Cincinnati, and to schools in Washington County, Md., and Houston. The poster school for TIME's Dropout Nation in Shelbyville, Ind., boosted its graduation rate from about 70 percent seven years ago to 90 percent today. The states of Vermont and Wisconsin have already met the 90 percent goal.

Other evidence of accelerating progress reinforces these gains. There are 583 fewer dropout factory high schools (graduating fewer than 60 percent of their students) and 1 million fewer students attending them in 2011 than in 2002, with a pace of progress much faster in the last half of the decade than the first. A more accurate calculation of graduation rates used in 47 states across the country shows nearly half have graduation rates of 80 percent or better. Encouragingly, the greatest gains have been among the populations and in the states with the furthest progress to make to strengthen our opportunity society, among Hispanics, African-Americans, and the high-poverty states of the south.

But our national leaders have been good at sounding alarms, setting national education goals, and not meeting them. The groundbreaking 1983 "A Nation at Risk" report offered sober evidence of our educational decline, while citing rising high school gradua-

tion rates over previous decades as a ray of hope. Three successive presidents challenged the nation to reach the 90 percent high school graduation rate goal by certain dates, only to see those deadlines missed or the pace of progress too slow to meet them.

The story this year is also full of challenges. Twenty-three states are not on pace to meet the 90 percent goal. While the greatest gains have been among students of color, graduation gaps among students of various races, ethnicities and needs remain so large they imperil progress. One-third or more of African-American students in 20 states and Hispanic students in 16 states will not make it to the graduation line with their class. There are no states in which the graduation rate for white students is so low. For students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, graduation rates are often far worse.

The last decade ushered in an era of progress, starting with the reforms of No Child Left Behind to close achievement gaps and boost graduation rates. Multiple sectors focused on breaking up, reforming or replacing the lowest-performing schools, creating more personalized learning environments and seeing the critical importance of extra supports for students entering 9th grade. In recent years, reforms have included using early warning systems to identify those students whose chronic absence, bad behavior, and poor performance in reading and math signal early trouble. With better data, nonprofits have retooled to match the tutors, mentors, and caring adults with those students most in need.

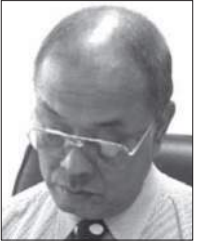
This past decade's gains show that progress is possible, but it also highlights how far the nation has to go in creating an opportunity society that ensures all students have an equal chance to finish high school, ready for college and the workforce. To achieve this end, we must spread and sustain what we now know works to the communities and students who need it the most.

*Robert Balfanz is director of the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University's School of Education and John Bridgeland is CEO of Civic Enterprises. They are co-authors of the 2013 annual report Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic. Readers may write to them at Civic Enterprises, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 1260, Washington, D.C. 20005; website: www.civicerprises.net.*

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



country's economy would crash as Obama tries to shift blame on others for his failed policy.

The truth is there's historic betrayal by Obama and democratic demagogues who are against measures to resuscitate the national economy. Our country must recalibrate and proactively set in motion serious economic revival measures. It's the right thing to do in the preservation of the union founded on first principles and the free enterprise system.

■ ■ ■

### Dangerous cyber attacks

Our national government is on the lookout for cyber attacks by China that steals technology from big U.S. firms, including technological advances in military weaponry.

What's at issue?

U.S. firms have spent billions of dollars in research and development on new products destined for global consumers. The attack gives China the advantage of using the treasure trove of stolen technology to compete against the U.S. from information it has expunged illegally via cyber attack. A big U.S. firm is ready to fire 25,000 factory employees.

It means the eventual loss of jobs, closure of U.S. factories, and a complete disadvantage of firms who have spent lifetime savings researching how to improve consumer products. This is very unfair and Uncle Sam isn't ready to let it slide. But then how do you handle a country that is a bit incapable of understanding what patent rights entail?

■ ■ ■

Obama played golf with Tiger Woods. The latter was asked what's the president's handicap. Said Tiger, "He doesn't understand economics." The liberal media too isn't interested in the national bankruptcy issue for it is whining for photo-ops of Tiger and Obama. Weird sense of news and urgency but that's the liberal take.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Congratulations!

I would like to congratulate our new governor and our newly elected leaders. Many people at the Multi-Purpose Center were surprised about the decision of our governor. Many are happy and some are sad. A guy over there told me it's good he stepped down so that our economy will improve again. I told this guy that even if Vice President Joe Biden takes over the CNMI, he cannot improve the economy unless he demolishes all the gambling, casino, poker and lotto, including Article 12. That is the time the economy will bloom again.

Early in the morning, I went to the Puerto Rico bento restaurant to share the news with the owner that the governor had stepped down and resigned. Those guys at the Multi-Purpose Center told me that business will bloom again. However, the owner told me there's no way business can improve unless CUC brings down the power rate. "I pay \$500 for this small space, including CUC power," he said. "And what about my employees? I will kill myself working for nothing. If the CUC power is not reduced, maybe I will be forced to close my business."

I told the owner to be patient. Our chance is in the hands of our new governor and elected leaders. If our new governor and the Legislature will support Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's proposal to give guest workers a better status, i.e., green card or permanent resident and pathway to U.S. citizenship, I am sure that tourist and investors will come and our economy will bloom again. And remember the words of John F. Kennedy "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." Again, I would like to congratulate our new governor and our newly elected leaders. May God bless us all!






**Teddy Guiao**

Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

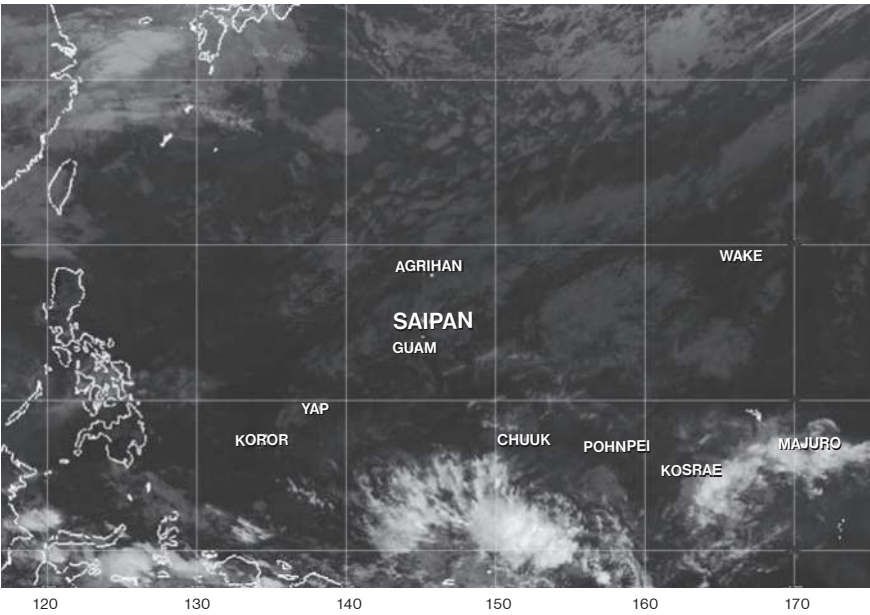
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 27
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 57
Miami	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 63
New York	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 39
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 42
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 40
Rome	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 37
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 29
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 41

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
8:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
3:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
8:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N160E to 21N151E then continues as a shear line across the far northern CNMI to beyond 130E at 16N. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front and shear line. Another shear line stretches southwestward from 25N165E to near Saipan at 15N147E. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this shear line. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror south of a line from 3N132E to 5N138E to 3N141E and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 144E to 163E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers southeast of Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 2N172E to 6N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:38 PM	7:09 AM
Thursday	8:32 PM	7:52 AM
Friday	9:29 PM	8:37 AM
Saturday	10:27 PM	9:24 AM
Sunday	11:26 PM	10:14 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.  
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily  <b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)</b> XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	<b>VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN</b> XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM  UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



# NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

# Business

## Jobless, cities could be first to feel budget pain

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Who'll be the first to feel the sting?

Jobless Americans who have been out of work for a long time and local governments that are paying off loans to fix roads and schools are in tough spots when it comes to the automatic federal budget cuts that are scheduled to kick in Friday.

About 2 million long-term unemployed people could see checks now averaging \$300 a week reduced by about \$30. There could also be reductions in federal payments that subsidize clean energy, school construction and state and local public works projects. Low-income Americans seeking heating assistance or housing or other aid might encounter lon-



National Governors Association Vice Chairman Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, left, with Chairman Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, speaks during a special session of the National Governors Association 2013 Winter Meeting in Washington, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013. Governors Sunday roundly condemned the automatic budget cuts set to take hold this week, and hoped for a deal to stave off the \$85 billion reduction in government services.

ger waits.

Government employees could get furlough notices as early as next week, though cuts in their work hours won't occur until April.

The timing of the "sequester" spending cuts has real consequences for Americans, but it also has a political ramifications. How quickly and fiercely the public feels the cuts could determine whether President Barack Obama and lawmakers seek to replace them with a different deficit reduction plan.

Eager to put pressure on Republican lawmakers to accept his blend of targeted cuts and tax increases Obama has been highlighting the impact of the automatic cuts in grim terms. He did it again on Monday, declaring the threat of the cuts is already harming the national economy.

Republicans say he is exaggerating and point to rates of spending, even after the cuts, that would be higher than in 2008 when adjusted for inflation. All Obama has to do to avoid the damage, House Speaker John Boehner said

at the Capitol, is agree to the GOP's recommended spending cuts—with no tax increases.

By all accounts, most of the pain of the \$85 billion in spending reductions to this year's federal budget would be slow in coming. The dire consequences that Obama officials say Americans will encounter—from airport delays and weakened borders to reduced parks programs and shuttered meatpacking plants—would unfold over time as furloughs kick in and agencies begin to adjust to their spending reductions.

"These impacts will not all be felt on day one," Obama acknowledged in a meeting with governors at the White House on Monday. "But rest assured the uncertainty is already having an effect."

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned that the federal government would be unable to "maintain the same level of security at all places around the country" once the automatic cuts began to take effect.

The public will feel the results "in the next few weeks," she said, and "it will keep growing."

## Obama warns of risks over budget cut uncertainty

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama on Monday said looming automatic spending cuts are already affecting the economy, while a top administration official warned that the nation's borders would be less secure if billions of dollars are yanked from the budget Friday. "The uncertainty is already having an effect," Obama said. "Companies are preparing lay-off notices. Families are preparing to cut back on expenses. The longer these cuts are in place, the bigger the impact will become."

Despite the urgent rhetoric, there was no indication the White House and congressional Republicans were actively negotiating a deal to avoid the

so-called sequester ahead of the end of the week deadline. The last known conversation between Obama and GOP leaders was last week and there have been no in-person meetings between the parties this year.

With Congress back from a weeklong recess, House Speaker John Boehner showed little willingness to move off his long-held position that the sequester be offset through targeted spending cuts, not the package of cuts and tax increases Obama supports.

"Mr. President, you got your tax increase," Boehner said, referring to the tax rate increases that took effect on Jan. 1. "It's time to cut spending here in

Washington."

The \$85 billion budget-cutting mechanism could affect everything from commercial flights to classrooms to meat inspections. Domestic and defense spending alike would be trimmed, leading to furloughs for hundreds of thousands of government workers and contractors.

The White House continued laying out in stark terms what the cuts would mean for government services, dispatching Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to warn of the implications for critical security functions.

"I don't think we can maintain the same level of security at all places around the coun-

try with sequester as without sequester," said Napolitano, adding that the impact would be "like a rolling ball. It will keep growing."

Napolitano focused in particular on the impact to the border, saying her agency would be forced to furlough 5,000 patrol agents. She tamped down the notion that budget cuts would make the nation more vulnerable to terrorism, but said the sequester would make it "awfully, awfully tough" to minimize that risk.

Also Monday, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said visiting hours would be cut at all 398 national parks, just as they prepare for an influx of spring and summer visitors.

## High-stakes trial begins over 2010 Gulf oil spill

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—BP put profits ahead of safety and bears most of the blame for the disastrous 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a U.S. Justice Department attorney charged Monday at the opening of a trial that could result in the oil company and its partners being forced to pay tens of billions of dollars more in damages.

The London-based oil giant acknowledged it made "errors in judgment" before the deadly blowout, but it also cast blame on the owner of the drilling rig and the contractor involved in cementing the well. It denied it was grossly negligent, as the government contended.

The high-stakes civil case went to trial after attempts to reach an 11th-hour settlement failed.

Eleven workers were killed when the Deepwater Horizon rig leased by the BP exploded on April 20, 2010. An estimated 172 millions of gallons of crude gushed into the Gulf over the three months that followed in the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Justice Department attorney Mike Underhill said the catastrophe resulted from BP's "culture of corporate recklessness."

"The evidence will show that BP put profits before people, profits before safety and profits

before the environment," Underhill said in opening statements. He added: "Despite BP's attempts to shift the blame to other parties, by far the primary fault for this disaster belongs to BP."

BP attorney Mike Brock acknowledged that the oil company made mistakes. But he accused rig owner Transocean Ltd. of failing to properly maintain the rig's blowout preventer, which had a dead battery, and he claimed cement contractor Halliburton used a "bad slurry" that failed to prevent oil and gas from traveling up the well.

BP has already pleaded guilty to manslaughter and other criminal charges and has racked up

more than \$24 billion in spill-related expenses, including cleanup costs, compensation for businesses and individuals, and \$4 billion in criminal penalties.

But the federal government, Gulf Coast states and individuals and businesses hope to convince a federal judge that the company and its partners in the ill-fated drilling project are liable for much more in civil damages under the Clean Water Act and other environmental regulations.

One of the biggest questions facing U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier, who is hearing the case without a jury, is whether BP acted with gross negligence.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### United offers options to customers affected by winter storms

**CHICAGO**—United Airlines today announced travel options for customers whose flight plans may be disrupted by winter storms impacting the Plains and Midwest regions. Weather conditions will lead to the delay or cancellation of certain flights into and out of several airports, including United's hub in Chicago. For a complete list of affected airports, see the "Important notices" page of united.com. Customers ticketed on flights to, from or through airports in the path of the storm may reschedule their itineraries in advance of the storm with a one-time date or time change, and the airline will waive the change fees. Find complete details, eligible travel dates and updates at united.com. Customers may also check flight status, change travel plans quickly, and create new travel plans conveniently via united.com. **(United)**

#### Feds to probe Ford cars and SUVs for stalling

**DETROIT (AP)**—The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it will investigate problems with stalling or surging

engines in nearly 725,000 Ford cars and SUVs. The probe affects Ford Escape and Mercury Mariner SUVs and Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan sedans from the 2009 through 2011 model years. The vehicles can unexpectedly go into "limp home mode" at reduced power, the agency said in documents posted Monday on its website. NHTSA and Ford have received almost 1,500 complaints about the problem. There were three crashes and one injury.

#### Taiwan may hold referendum on nuclear plant

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)**—Taiwan's premier says the government will support holding a public referendum to resolve the prolonged controversy over the fate of the island's \$10 billion nuclear power plant. Jiang Yi-huah said Tuesday a referendum could resolve the 20-year-old debate about the power plant, which is nearly complete and slated to begin operation in 2015. Jiang warns that opponents should be aware of the economic losses for scrapping the project while the government will ensure the plant's safety if a yes vote is secured.



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,784.17	1,487.85	3,116.25
-216.40	-27.75	-45.57
-1.55%	-1.83%	-1.44%

### EXCHANGE RATES

in U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9728	Indian Rupee	54.0687	Singapore Dollar	1.2390
	British Pound	0.6577	Indonesian Rupiah	9,707.00	South Korean Won	1,087.70
	Canadian Dollar	1.0249	Japanese Yen	91.9700	Swiss Franc	0.9296
	Chinese Yuan	6.2300	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1025	Taiwan Dollar	29.6810
	Euro	0.7661	New Zealand Dollar	1.1987	Thailand Baht	29.8330

## Nation

## Koop, who transformed surgeon general post, dies

By WILSON RING and  
CONNIE CASS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With his striking beard and starched uniform, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop became one of the most recognizable figures of the Reagan era—and one of the most unexpectedly enduring.

His nomination in 1981 met a wall of opposition from women's groups and liberal politicians, who complained President Ronald Reagan selected Koop, a pediatric surgeon and evangelical Christian from Philadelphia, only because of his conservative views, especially his staunch opposition to abortion.

Soon, though, he was a hero to AIDS activists, who chanted "Koop, Koop" at his appearances but booed other officials. And when he left his post in 1989, he left behind a landscape where AIDS was a top research and educational priority, smoking was considered a public health hazard, and access to abortion remained largely intact.

Koop, who turned his once-obscure post into a bully pulpit for seven years during the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations and who surprised



In this May 12, 1997 file photo, former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop discusses the proposed increase of the New Hampshire cigarette tax at the governor's office in the Statehouse in Concord, N.H.

both ends of the political spectrum by setting aside his conservative personal views on issues such as homosexuality and abortion to keep his focus sharply medical, died Monday at his home in Hanover, N.H. He was 96. An assistant at Koop's Dartmouth College institute, Susan Wills, confirmed his death but

didn't disclose its cause.

Dr. Richard Carmona, who served as surgeon general a decade ago under President George W. Bush, said Koop was a mentor to him and preached the importance of staying true to the science even if it made politicians uncomfortable.

"He set the bar high for all

who followed in his footsteps," Carmona said.

Although the surgeon general has no real authority to set government policy, Koop described himself as "the health conscience of the country" and said modestly just before leaving his post that "my only influence was through moral suasion."

## Warrant issued for Vegas Strip shooting suspect

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police said Monday they have a warrant for a 26-year-old ex-convict identified as the prime suspect in a shooting and fiery crash that killed three people last week on the Las Vegas Strip.

"We can say with certainty that Ammar Harris is the suspect who fired the fatal shots," Las Vegas police Capt. Chris Jones told reporters at an afternoon update about a manhunt that he said would be advertised on southern Nevada billboards.

Police previously released a photo of Harris taken after his arrest last year in Las Vegas in a 2010 prostitution case. It showed Harris with tattoos on his right cheek and words on his neck above an image that appeared to depict an owl with blackened eyes. Jones said Harris should be considered armed

and dangerous.

Jones said investigators were looking everywhere Harris had lived in the past. He wasn't specific.

Public records show that Harris previously lived in South Carolina and Georgia, and told a police officer when he was arrested in Miami Beach last December that he had lived in Florida for about a year.

Harris was convicted in 2004 in Orangeburg, S.C., of felony possession with intent to sell a stolen pistol, Jones said. The conviction was not in California, as police said earlier.

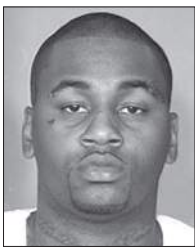
Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson attended the news conference and said after-

ward that the case was getting top priority from prosecutors and he hoped Harris would turn himself in. He said the warrant was issued Friday.

"If Mr. Harris is listening, I would urge him to surrender," Wolfson said.

Harris used the name Ammar Asim Faruq Harris when he was arrested last May in Las Vegas in the June 2010 case. He was charged with robbery, sexual assault, kidnapping and coercion with a weapon.

Las Vegas police also sought pandering by force and ex-felon in possession of concealed weapon charges stemming from allegations that Harris was a pimp and attacked a woman.



Harris

A former pipe smoker, Koop carried out a crusade to end smoking in the United States; his goal had been to do so by 2000. He said cigarettes were as addictive as heroin and cocaine. And he shocked his conservative supporters when he endorsed condoms and sex education to stop the spread of AIDS.

Chris Collins, a vice president of amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, said many people don't realize what an important role Koop played in the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

"At the time, he really changed the national conversation, and he showed real courage in pursuing the duties of his job," Collins said.

Even after leaving office, Koop continued to promote

public health causes, from preventing childhood accidents to better training for doctors.

"I will use the written word, the spoken word and whatever I can in the electronic media to deliver health messages to this country as long as people will listen," he promised.

In 1996, he rapped Republican presidential hopeful Bob Dole for suggesting that tobacco was not invariably addictive, saying Dole's comments "either exposed his abysmal lack of knowledge of nicotine addiction or his blind support of the tobacco industry."

Although Koop eventually won wide respect with his blend of old-fashioned values, pragmatism and empathy, his nomination met staunch opposition.

## 2nd round of heavy snow in Plains, Midwest; 2 dead

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—The nation's midsection again dealt with blizzard conditions Monday, closing highways, knocking out power to thousands in Texas and Oklahoma and even bringing hurricane-force winds to the Texas Panhandle. Two people have died.

Already under a deep snowpack from last week's storm, Kansas was preparing for another round of heavy snow Monday evening and overnight, prompting some to wonder what it could do for the drought.

"Is it a drought-buster? Absolutely not," National Weather Service meteorologist Victor Murphy said. "Will it bring short-term improvement? Yes." The storm is being blamed for two deaths on Monday. In northwest Kansas, a 21-year-old man's SUV hit an icy patch on Interstate 70 and overturned. And in the northwest town of Woodward, Okla., heavy snow caused a roof to collapse, killing one inside the home.

Earlier on Monday, blizzard warnings extended from the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles into south-central Kansas. The blizzard warnings were dropped Monday evening for the far western portion of the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles.

Meanwhile to the east, lines of

thunderstorms crossed Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida, bringing heavy rain and an occasional tornado warning.

As many as 10,000 people lost power in Oklahoma, as did thousands more in Texas.

"I have a gas cooking stove and got the oven going," said Ann Smith, owner of the Standifer House Bed and Breakfast in Elk City, Okla., late Monday afternoon. Her daughter and grandchildren had come over because they lost power. "If it gets cold tonight, I guess we'll have to put pallets in the kitchen," Smith said with a laugh.

Colorado and New Mexico were the first to see the system Sunday night, with up to 2 feet falling in the foothills west of Denver.

As it moved into the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles Monday, the storm ground travel to a halt, closing miles of interstates and state highways.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Daniel Hawthorne said about a dozen motorists had to be rescued, but no one was injured. The National Weather Service in Lubbock reported at one point that as many as 100 vehicles were at a standstill on Interstate 27.



## ACROSS THE NATION

## Crews search for family who abandoned sinking boat

MONTEREY, Calif. (AP)—Crews planned to search by sea and air through the night Monday as they ramped up efforts to find a husband, wife and two young children who sent a series of distress calls saying their sailboat was sinking far off the Central California coast and they were fashioning a raft from a cooler and a life ring. The

unidentified family had been sailing a small vessel Sunday west of Monterey Bay, where strong winds, cold water and big swells made for perilous conditions. Forecasters had issued a weekend advisory warning boaters of rough seas in the area. The group—which included two children under 8—made its first distress call late Sunday afternoon, Coast Guard Lt. Heather Lampert said. Investigators used the boat's radio signal and radar to determine

the call came from an area about 60 miles west of Monterey.

## NY assemblyman apologizes for blackface costume

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A New York assemblyman who at first vigorously defended wearing blackface, an Afro wig and a basketball jersey to a costume party apologized Monday, saying he didn't mean to hurt anyone. Democratic Assemblyman

Dov Hikind wore the basketball garb at his own party in his home to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim, for which costumes are commonly part of the celebration. For hours on Monday, Hikind was assailed by criticism that he initially dismissed as "political correctness to the absurd." At a news conference outside his Brooklyn home, however, Hikind pledged to be "a little more careful, a little more sensitive." He added: "I repeat, it was not

meant to in any way hurt anyone. And those that were? I'm sorry. That was not my intention."

## Immigration detainees released in budget crunch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Associated Press has learned that federal immigration authorities have released a number of detainees around the country to save money. Gillian Christensen, spokeswoman for U.S. Immigra-

tion and Customs Enforcement in Washington, D.C., said Monday that field offices have been directed to review their numbers of detained immigrants to ensure the jail populations stay within budgeted resources. Christensen says an unspecified number of immigrants have been released and placed on more cost-effective forms of supervision. She says she did not have further details about those forms of supervision or how many people have been released.

# Asia

## China's Xi affirms goal of unification with Taiwan

**BEIJING (AP)**—Chinese leader Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's desire to bring Taiwan under its control in a meeting Monday in Beijing with the honorary head of the island's ruling party.

Xi's meeting with Nationalist Party honorary chairman Lien Chan was viewed on both sides as a symbolic gesture aimed at reaffirming warming ties between the former rivals following Xi's elevation to leader of the ruling Communist Party last year. Once-tense relations have given way to thriving trade, transport, and investment links, although there has been no commitment by Taiwan to political talks that might lead to China's unification goal.

Xi told Lien that he and other Communist Party leaders who took office in November will continue developing ties and pushing for unification with the island, which China claims as part of its territory.

"The new Communist Party ruling collective will continue to push forward the peaceful development of relations between the two sides and advance the cause of peaceful unification," Xi told Lien at their meeting at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of the legislature in downtown Beijing.

Xi promised to "pragmatically forge ahead" to achieve new achievements in relations that would enrich residents on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

The meeting is the first be-



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping, right, meets with Taiwan's Nationalist Party Honorary Chairman Lien Chan at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Monday, Feb. 25, 2013.

tween Xi and a leading Taiwanese politician since Xi assumed the party leadership, and comes weeks before he assumes the title of state president at the legislature's annual session.

Taiwan split from China amid civil war in 1949. The Nationalists, once bitter Cold War rivals with China's Communists, support eventual unification with mainland China but only under a still-to-be negotiated framework.

A former Japanese colony, Taiwan split from the mainland amid civil war between the Na-

tionalists and Communists in 1949. The decades since have seen a growing independent Taiwanese identity, with opinion surveys showing only a minority favor unification with Beijing.

Recent years have seen considerable growth in relations following years of tensions under former President Chen Shui-bian, whose Democratic Progressive Party advocated the island's formal independence—something China threatens to prevent by military force.

China dropped its threaten-

ing rhetoric following the election of Nationalist president Ma Ying-jeou in 2008. Trade, tourism and private visits have grown exponentially since then.

Lien, who lost two presidential races to Chen, is a former premier and vice president whose 2005 visit to China was seen as a breakthrough in long-frosty relations between the Communists and Nationalists.

Xi, considered a relative hardliner on Taiwan and China's external relations, has considerable experience on Taiwan economic issues dating from his time

as a leader in coastal provinces facing the island. Some observers have speculated he may push for

political talks between the sides, starting with the exchange of permanent liaison offices.

## Philippines urges clan to leave Malaysia village

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—President Benigno Aquino III asked a royal Muslim clan leader in the southern Philippines to order his followers to withdraw as soon as possible from Malaysian land they claim as their own, warning Tuesday of legal action against them and potential trouble.

Speaking on national television, Aquino told Sultan Jamalul Kiram III that his group of 180 followers led by his younger brother and including up to 30 armed men was risking a violent end to a two-week standoff by insisting on holding out. Kiram's sultanate has been claiming the land in a coastal village in Lahad Datu



Aquino

district in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state for nearly a century.

"We have not yet reached the point of no return, but we are fast approaching that point," Aquino said, calling the action by Kiram's followers a "foolhardy act" that was bound to fail.

Aquino's remarks elevated the Sabah territorial issue, which has been a thorn in Philippine-Malaysian relations for decades, to a Philippine national security concern. The crisis erupted at a crucial stage of peace negotiations—brokered by Malaysia—between the Philippine

government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines.

Kiram's followers secretly traveled by boat early this month to Lahad Datu, where he said many of their Filipino relatives had resettled for years, to fortify his clan's claims on Sabah. It is a resource-rich Malaysian region where many mostly Muslim Filipinos have relocated in search of jobs and opportunities and to

escape poverty and the decades-long Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Malaysian authorities, however, regard them as armed intruders and ordered them to immediately

leave or face eviction. Malaysian police have surrounded Kiram's followers in Lahad Datu and gave them until late Tuesday to leave, suggesting they would be forcibly removed.

Aquino said that Kiram and his followers would be investigated, along with possible collaborators, suggesting the incident may have been an act to undermine the Philippine government. He warned Kiram and his followers of possible legal action if they continued to defy orders to withdraw from Lahad Datu.

## SKorea's 1st female leader yet to hire many women

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—The country with the developed world's biggest gender income gap now has its first female president, but Park Geun-hye already has South Koreans wondering whether she'll improve the status of women in a society still dominated by men.

Wearing a traditional Korean dress of red and gold silk, Park strode up the steps of the presidential Blue House after her inauguration Monday. So far, she has chosen only two women to join her in top positions—two less than a male liberal predecessor.

Park faces expectations that she will do something about pervasive sexism, and many other issues. Those include authoritarian rival North Korea, which conducted a nuclear test two weeks ago and warned Monday of a fiery death for Seoul and its ally Washington.

South Korea also struggles with deep societal rifts that many trace back to the 18-year dictatorship of Park's father. With a stagnant economy and job worries, there's pressure for Park, a member of the conservative ruling party, to live up to campaign vows to return to

the strong economic growth her father oversaw—the so-called Miracle on the Han River. Park's election in December was an important moment for women in South Korea, who on average earn nearly 40 percent less than men, the largest gap among the 26 member nations of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development. South Korean women are often paid less for doing the same work as men and seldom rise to the top of high-profile industries.

During her presidential campaign, Park criticized "traditionally male-centered politics" for corruption and power struggles, saying that "South Korean society accepting a female president could be the start of a big change."

Critics, however, are taking note that Park has nominated women for only two of 18 Cabinet posts—and that one of those positions, the minister responsible for gender equality, hasn't been held by a woman since being launched in 2001. Park's conservative predecessor, Lee Myung-bak, also nominated two women to start his term, while former President Roh Moo-hyun, Lee's liberal prede-

cessor, named four.

Kyunghyang Shinmun, a liberal daily newspaper, pointed out in a recent editorial that there are no women among the 12 officials tapped as senior presidential advisers.

Park's nomination of so few women is disappointing, as there was a high public expectation for better gender equality in her Cabinet, said Park Seon-young, a researcher at the government-affiliated Korean Women's Development Institute in Seoul.

Park either didn't search hard enough for qualified women for her Cabinet, the researcher said, or such women were filtered out during a screening process.

Park's inauguration was attended by at least one other female world leader, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso also attended.

Before Park took her oath of office, South Korean superstar PSY performed his global hit "Gangnam Style" before tens of thousands. Children and the elderly alike joined him in the contagious horse-rid-

ing dance he made famous in the song's video.

In her inauguration speech, Park mentioned North Korea's Feb. 12 nuclear test, its third since 2006, calling it "a challenge to the survival and future of the Korean people" and saying Pyongyang should abandon its nuclear ambitions and work for peace.

"There should be no mistake that the biggest victim will be none other than North Korea itself," she said.

As Park was sworn in, North Korea's state media, referring to the North as a "full-fledged nuclear weapons state," criticized Seoul and Washington over annual military drills that Pyongyang calls an invasion rehearsal, warning that the allies would "die in flames" if they attack.

North Korea's nuclear test sets up a challenge to Park's vow to soften Seoul's current hard-line approach to Pyongyang.

Pyongyang, Washington, Beijing and Tokyo are all watching to see if Park pursues an ambitious engagement policy meant to ease five years of animosity on the divided peninsula, or if she sticks with the tough stance of former President Lee Myung-bak.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Tibetan monks self-immolate in anti-China protest

**BEIJING (AP)**—Two Tibetan monks in their early 20s set themselves on fire in protest against Chinese rule near dozens of pilgrims who had gathered for prayers to mark the end of the Tibetan New Year festival, a Tibet rights group said. Both died. One of the monks, Tsesung Kyab, self-immolated Monday outside a temple in Luqu county in northwestern Gansu province while the other, Phagmo Dondrup, set himself ablaze Sunday at a monastery in neighboring Qinghai province, said the Washington, D.C.-based, International Campaign for Tibet reported.

#### Blast at Sufi shrine in Pakistan kills 2

**KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)**—A police official says a blast at a Sufi shrine in southern Pakistan has killed two people.

Sindh province police spokesman Imran Shakat said the blast Monday in the city of Shikarpur wounded 12 people, two of them critically. It was the second attack on a Sufi figure or location in Sindh province in less than a week.

#### Everest climbs put Nepalese woman in record book

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—Nepalese mountaineer Chhurim has entered the record book by scaling Mount Everest twice in the same climbing season. In fact, she did so a week apart. Nepal's Tourism Minister Posta Bahadur Bogati handed over the Guinness World Records certificate issued to 29-year-old Chhurim on Monday. She scaled the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) summit on May 12, 2012, and again a week later on May 19. Chhurim says she plans to climb other high peaks in the future. She uses only one name like most Sherpas.

## World

# Syria says it's prepared to talk with armed rebels

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syria said Monday it is prepared to hold talks with armed rebels bent on overthrowing President Bashar Assad, the clearest signal yet that the regime is growing increasingly nervous about its long-term prospects to hold on to power as opposition fighters make slow but persistent headway in the civil war.

Meanwhile, the umbrella group for Syrian opposition parties said it had reversed a decision to boycott a conference in Rome being held to help drum up financial and political support for the opposition. Walid al-Bunni, a spokesman for the Syrian National Coalition, said the move came after a phone call between the group's leader, Mouaz al-Khatib, and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Al-Bunni told pan-Arab broadcaster Al-Arabiya the decision was made based on guarantees al-Khatib heard from western diplomats that the conference would be different this time. He did not elaborate. The boycott had put the group at odds with its Western backers.

The Syrian talks offer, made by Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem during a visit to Moscow, came hours before residents of Damascus and state-run TV reported a huge explosion and a series of smaller blasts in the capital, followed by heavy gunfire.

State-run news agency SANA



A Syrian woman walks past a house destroyed from a government airstrike, at Jabal al-Zaweya village of Sarjeh, in Idlib, Syria, Monday Feb. 25, 2013. AP

said there were multiple casualties from the explosion, which it said was a suicide car bombing. Britain-based activist group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosions targeted a checkpoint, adding there were initial reports of at least five regime forces killed and several wounded.

The talks proposal marked the first time that a high-ranking regime official has stated pub-

licly that Damascus would be willing to meet with the armed opposition. But al-Moallem did not spell out whether rebels would first have to lay down their weapons before negotiations could begin—a crucial sticking point in the past.

The regime's proposal is unlikely to lead to talks. The rebels battling the Syrian military have vowed to stop at nothing less than Assad's downfall and

are unlikely to agree to sit down with a leader they accuse of mass atrocities.

But the timing of the proposal suggests the regime is warming to the idea of a settlement as it struggles to hold territory and claw back ground it has lost to the rebels in the nearly 2-year-old conflict.

Opposition fighters have scored several tactical victories in recent weeks, capturing the

nation's largest hydroelectric dam and overtaking air bases in the northeast. In Damascus, they have advanced from their strongholds in the suburbs into neighborhoods in the northeast and southern rim of the capital, while peppering the center of the city with mortar rounds for days.

Monday night's explosion struck about 800 yards (meters) from Abbasid Square, a landmark plaza in central Damascus. It was followed by several other smaller blasts thought to be mortar shells landing in various districts of the capital. The blasts and subsequent gunfire caused panic among residents who hid in their apartments.

On Thursday, a car bomb near the ruling Baath Party headquarters in Damascus killed at least 53 people, according to state media.

While the momentum appears to be shifting in the rebels' direction, the regime's grip on Damascus remains firm, and Assad's fall is far from imminent.

## Cuba's new heir apparent has work cut out for him

**HAVANA (AP)**—Miguel Diaz-Canel has five years to get started and a lot of work to do.

The man tapped as Cuban President Raul Castro's chief lieutenant and likely successor must quietly fend off any challenges from within the Communist-run island's secretive citadel of power.

He must gain legitimacy with young, and even middle-aged, Cubans who have never known a leader not named Castro. And he must deal with an exiled diaspora and American officials who were already making clear on Monday they will not be mollified by a new, younger face.

"There's going to be a huge charisma deficit," said Ann Louise Bardach, author of "Without Fidel: A Death Foretold in Miami, Havana and Washington." "You go from Fidel to Raul who at least had some of the shine of the Castro mantle, somebody who fought in the revolution."

She said Cuba faces "massive" problems including a large public debt, dependence on Venezuela, an aging population, decades of brain drain and one of the world's slowest Internet connections.

Whether Diaz-Canel is the man to fix all that is very much open to debate. Will Cubans accept another leader who was hand-picked from above and whose ascension—if it happens—will not come through multiparty democratic elections?

And will those passed over for the top job fall in line? If Fidel and Raul Castro are still alive, will the 52-year-old electrical engineer and former minister of higher education be able to set his own course?

On the streets of Havana, a day after Castro accepted a new term and said he would step down when it ends, many had their doubts about the future.

"Change? Was there a change?" asked Ernesto Silva, a 25-year-old student who scoffed at the idea that the country must wait another five years for new leadership, and said he hopes to emigrate to the United States in the meantime. "I find it hard to believe that he will be able to do, say or truly change anything."

Others were more enthusiastic, but still unsure how Diaz-Canel will establish control.

## Italy faces political gridlock after crucial polls

**ROME (AP)**—Italy faced political paralysis Monday as near-complete results in crucial national elections showed no clear winner and raised the possibility of a hung parliament. The uncertainty bodes ill for the nation's efforts to pass the tough reforms it needs to snuff out its economic crisis and prevent a new round of global financial turmoil.

The chaotic election scenes in the eurozone's third-biggest economy quickly snaked around globe—sending the Dow Jones index plunging more than 200 points in its sharpest drop since November and causing Tokyo's red-hot benchmark index to sink nearly 2 percent at open.

A major factor in the murky result was the astonishing vote haul of comic-turned-political leader Beppe Grillo, whose 5

Star Movement has capitalized on a wave of voter disgust with the ruling political class.

That has coupled with the surprise return as a political force of billionaire media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, who was driven from the premiership at the end of 2011, to roil the Italian ballot. Berlusconi's alliance was neck-and-neck with center-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani's coalition for both Parliament's lower house and the Senate.

The ballot was so close that final official results were not expected until daytime Tuesday, at earliest. The decisions Italy's government makes over the next several months promise to have a deep impact on whether Europe can decisively stem its financial crisis. As the eurozone's third-largest economy,

its problems can rattle market confidence in the whole bloc and analysts have worried it could fall back into old spending habits.

The unfolding uncertainty raised the possibility of new elections in the coming months, the worst possible outcome for markets that are looking to Italy to stay the course with painful but necessary reform.

While Italy's postwar history has largely been one of revolving-door governments, it has never seen a hung parliament. Experts said that's likely to change now.

"This has never happened before," said James Walston, a political science professor at American University of Rome. He predicted such a swirl of political chaos that

new elections may need to be called as soon as the new legislature chooses the nation's next president this spring.

The Italian election has been one of the most fluid in the last two decades thanks to the emergence of Grillo's 5 Star Movement, which has throbbled with anger at politics as usual. The movement came against a backdrop of harsh austerity measures imposed by technocrat Premier Mario Monti—who has fared miserably in the elections.

While Grillo trailed the alliances of the two biggest mainstream forces, his movement looked set to become the biggest single party in Parliament's lower house—a stunning result for a protest campaign that is just over three years old.

neighboring Nigeria holds them. The video, posted to YouTube and mentioned on a jihadist website, shows one of two French men reading a statement, with a woman in between them. Four children sit on the ground near them, flanked by two masked militants wearing camouflage uniforms and holding rifles. A

masked militant in front says in the video that Boko Haram kidnapped the French hostages, a family of three adults and four children who were taken from outside a national park in Cameroon's Far North Region on Feb. 19. A black banner in the background, bearing the images of the Quran flanked by two

Kalashnikov assault rifles, also resembles a symbol previously used by Boko Haram.

### Mexican president signs education reform

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—President Enrique Pena Nieto signed Mexico's most sweeping education reform in seven decades

into law Monday, seeking to change a system in which teaching positions could be sold or inherited, and no official census of schools, teachers and students was ever carried out. The legislation, which is widely expected to weaken Mexico's powerful teachers' union, was approved earlier by congress and the ma-

jority of state legislatures. The reform was a plank of a pact signed between Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party and the two main opposition parties. It seeks to create a system of uniform standards for teacher hiring and promotion based on merit, and will allow for the first census of Mexico's education system.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Video claims Nigeria sect holds 7 French hostages

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)**—A video posted online Monday apparently shows seven French hostages kidnapped from northern Cameroon, with a masked militant claiming the radical Islamic group Boko Haram from

## Focus

# Chinese hackers seen as increasingly professional

**B**EIJING (AP)—Beijing hotly denies accusations of official involvement in massive cyberattacks against foreign targets, insinuating such activity is the work of rogues. But at least one piece of evidence cited by experts points to professional cyberspies:

China's hackers don't work weekends.

Accusations of state-sanctioned hacking took center stage this past week following a detailed report by a U.S.-based Internet security firm Mandiant. It added to growing suspicions that the Chinese military is not only stealing national defense secrets and harassing dissidents but also pilfering information from foreign companies that could be worth millions or even billions of dollars.

Experts say Chinese hacking attacks are characterized not only by their brazenness, but by their persistence.

"China conducts at least an order of magnitude more than the next country," said Martin Libicki, a specialist on cyber warfare at the Rand Corporation, based in Santa Monica, California. The fact that hackers take weekends off suggests they are paid, and that would belie "the notion that the hackers are private," he said.

Libicki and other cyber warfare experts have long noted a Monday-through-Friday pattern in the intensity of attacks believed to come from Chinese sources, though there has been little evidence released publicly directly linking the Chinese military to the attacks.

Mandiant went a step further in its report Tuesday saying that it had traced hacking activities against 141 foreign entities in the U.S. Canada, Britain and elsewhere to a group of operators known as the "Comment Crew" or "APT1," for "Advanced Persistent Threat 1," which it traced back to the People's Liberation Army Unit 61398. The unit is headquartered in a nondescript 12-story building inside a military compound in a crowded suburb of China's financial hub of Shanghai.

Attackers stole information about pricing, contract negotiations, manufacturing, product testing and corporate acquisitions, the company said.

Hacker teams regularly began work, for the most part, at 8 a.m. Beijing time. Usually they continued for a standard work day, but sometimes the hacking persisted until midnight. Occasionally, the attacks stopped for two-week periods, Mandiant said, though the reason was not clear.

China denies any official involvement, calling such accusations "groundless" and insisting that Beijing is itself a major victim of hacking attacks, the largest number of which originate in the U.S. While not denying hacking attacks originated in China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Thursday that it was flat out wrong to accuse the Chinese government or military of being behind them.

Mandiant and other experts believe Unit 61398 to be a branch of the PLA General Staff's Third Department responsible for collection and analysis of electronic signals such as e-mails and phone calls. It and the Fourth Department, responsible for electronic warfare, are believed to be the PLA units mainly responsible for infiltrating and manipulating computer networks.



In this Feb. 20, 2013 photo, the building housing "Unit 61398" of the People's Liberation Army is seen in the outskirts of Shanghai. For state-backed cyberspies such as the Chinese military unit implicated by a U.S. security firm in a computer crime wave, hacking foreign companies can produce high-value secrets ranging from details on oil fields to advanced manufacturing technology. This week's report by Mandiant Inc. adds to mounting suspicion that Chinese military experts are helping state industry by stealing secrets from Western companies possibly worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The Chinese military has denied involvement in the attacks.

China acknowledges pursuing these strategies as a key to delivering an initial blow to an opponent's communications and other infrastructure during wartime—but the techniques are often the same as those used to steal information for commercial use.

China has consistently denied state-sponsored hacking, but experts say the office hours that the cyberspies keep point to a professional army rather than mere hobbyists or so-called "hacktivists" inspired by patriotic passions.

Mandiant noticed that pattern while

monitoring attacks on the New York Times last year blamed on another Chinese hacking group it labeled APT12. Hacker activity began at around 8:00 a.m. Beijing time and usually lasted through a standard workday.

The Rand Corporation's Libicki said he wasn't aware of any comprehensive studies, but that in such cases, most activity between malware embedded in a compromised system and the malware's controllers takes place during business hours in Beijing's time zone.

Richard Forno, director of the Uni-

versity of Maryland Baltimore County's graduate cybersecurity program, and David Clemente, a cybersecurity expert with independent analysis center Chatham House in London, said that observation has been widely noted among cybersecurity specialists.

"It would reflect the idea that this is becoming a more routine activity and that they are quite methodical," Clemente said.

The PLA's Third Department is brimming with resources, according to studies commissioned by the U.S. government,

with 12 operation bureaus, three research institutes, and an estimated 13,000 linguists, technicians and researchers on staff. It's further reinforced by technical teams from China's seven military regions spread across the country, and by the military's vast academic resources, especially the PLA University of Information Engineering and the Academy of Military Sciences.

The PLA is believed to have made cyber warfare a key priority in its war-fighting capabilities more than a decade ago. Among the few public announcements of its development came in a May 25, 2011 news conference by Defense Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng, in which he spoke of developing China's "online" army.

"Currently, China's network protection is comparatively weak," Geng told reporters, adding that enhancing information technology and "strengthening network security protection are important components of military training for an army."

Unit 61398 is considered just one of many such units under the Third Department responsible for hacking, according to experts.

Greg Walton, a cyber-security researcher who has tracked Chinese hacking campaigns, said he's observed the "Comment Crew" at work, but cites as equally active another Third Department unit operating out of the southwestern city of Chengdu. It is tasked with stealing secrets from Indian government security agencies and think tanks, together with the India-based Tibetan Government in Exile, Walton said.

Another hacking outfit believed by some to have PLA links, the "Elderwood Group," has targeted defense contractors, human rights groups, non-governmental organizations, and service providers, according to computer security company Symantec.

It's believed to have compromised Amnesty International's Hong Kong website in May 2012, although other attacks have gone after targets as diverse as the Council on Foreign Relations and Capstone Turbine Corporation, which makes gas microturbines for power plants.

Civilian departments believed to be involved in hacking include those under the Ministry of Public Security, which commands the police, and the Ministry of State Security, one of the leading clandestine intelligence agencies. The MSS is especially suspected in attacks on foreign academics studying Chinese social issues and unrest in the western regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

Below them on the hacking hierarchy are private actors, including civilian universities and research institutes, state industries in key sectors such as information technology and resources, and college students and other individuals acting alone or in groups, according to analysts, University of Maryland's Forno said.

China's government isn't alone in being accused of cyber espionage, but observers say it has outpaced its rivals in using military assets to steal commercial secrets.

"Stealing secrets is stealing secrets regardless of the medium," Forno said. "The key difference is that you can't easily arrest such electronic thieves since they're most likely not even in the country, which differs from how the game was played during the Cold War."

# Campus Life

## Students urged to finish GED; changes due in 2014

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)**—Adults who've begun working toward their GED are being urged to finish up this year, before the test for a high school equivalency diploma changes and they have to start all over.

GED Testing Service will introduce a new version of the test, given nationwide, on Jan. 1, 2014. Developers say the first major changes since 2002 will align the test with the new Common Core curricula adopted by most states to increase college and career readiness. It also will shift test-taking from pencil and paper to computer.

Joyce Monroe, 24, is feeling the pressure as she puts in dozens of hours in class every week at the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center. Two practice tests showed she's ready for writing and science but needs slightly more work in math, along with social studies and language arts.

"I'm really trying to get in before it changes. I'm so close," said Monroe, who said she left high school before graduating for family reasons and is trying to set an example for her 5-year-old daughter. "I don't want to start all over. That would make me want to drop GED like I did high school."

Those who administer the test have begun to alert the million or so adults who have passed some but not all of the five parts of the current test to complete the missing sections by Dec. 31. If not, their scores will expire and they'll have to begin again under the new program Jan. 1.

"If they are in the pipeline, they need to get it done," said Dr. Danis Gehl, education director at the University at Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center.

There is also financial incentive to complete the GED this year. At \$120, the computer-based version is double the cost of the current test. Several states subsidize some or all of the expense but the student share is widely expected to rise.

About 700,000 people take the GED exam yearly in the United States, said Armando Diaz, spokesman for Washington-based GED Testing Service, the trademarked test's creator. About 72 percent passing to earn their states' high school equivalency credential. More than 1 million people are expected to try in 2013 in advance of the change, a number that could strain preparation programs and testing sites.

Although the General Education Development exam has undergone regular updates since being introduced in 1942, the upcoming changes are the most dramatic yet.

"We see that higher ed has new standards, the workforce,



Student Deloris Rainey, left, works with teacher Erin Pustulka, right, in a GED preparation class in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013.

the economy's changing," said Diaz. "We decided it's time to completely give the testing program a facelift."

Instead of five sections, the test will be re-aligned into four: reasoning through language arts, mathematical reasoning, science and social studies. The

current stand-alone essay section will be incorporated into writing assignments within the language arts and social studies sections, Diaz said.

"I don't think it's going to be a harder test, I just think we're testing different skills," he said.

Tashia Malone of Buffalo

is taking no chances, spending her mornings at the Seneca Babcock Community Center's preparation class in hopes of sitting for the two-day test in May.

"I should have done it already. Procrastination is my middle name," said Malone, 34, who dropped out of high school

when she became pregnant. "I heard it's going to be a lot harder and cost more next year so I want to get it in now."

EOC Executive Director Julius Gregg Adams suggested that adults unfamiliar with the Common Core standards, a uniform school curriculum heavier on writing and content analysis, may be more comfortable getting the test out of the way this year, though he's reluctant to say the new test will be harder.

"The current test more than likely reflects learning standards that individuals have been exposed to when they were in secondary education," he said. "The Common Core standards more than likely probably reflect standards that individuals have not been exposed to."

In New York City, the Fund for Public Advocacy-led Campaign to Finish has set up a hotline to refer students for tutoring, targeting those who've taken the test before but haven't passed all sections.

"It's going to be more difficult. It's going to cost more money next year, so I think that motivates people," said Juan Santos, 34,

who is preparing for the GED in Methuen, Mass., with the goal of becoming a police officer in Florida. "I couldn't believe I waited so long."

While the GED, initially developed for U.S. military personnel who had not completed high school, is the pathway recognized by every state toward a high school equivalency diploma, New York and other states are exploring development of an alternative. Without the computer infrastructure statewide to test large numbers of people and one of the lowest pass rates in the nation, at 59.4 percent, New York has solicited bids for development of a test that would maintain the paper and pencil option for the time being and more slowly phase in the Common Core standards.

"We're trying to make the transition to the test a little more seamless, a little softer, not put so much stress on our programs, on our infrastructure and most especially our students," said Kevin Smith, the State Education Department deputy commissioner for adult career and continuing education.

## Green Meadow students win big again at Forensic



Green Meadow School students and staff that participated in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition at Hopwood Junior High School on Feb. 9, 2012, have their picture at the school campus.

Officers and staff of Green Meadow School congratulate and thank all their participating students and coaches for their hard work and dedication that resulted in top honors being won at the Primary Grade Forensic Competition at Hopwood Junior High School on Feb. 9, 2012. The school administration's sincere appreciation also goes to all the parents and guardians for helping prepare and for supporting their children before and during the completion.

### K-2 DIVISION

**1st place, Dramatic Interpretation:** Jill Anne Mallari,

**2nd Grade**  
**1st place, Humorous Interpretation:** Jill Anne Mallari, 2nd Grade; Ariel Alysa Legaspi, 1st Grade

**1st place, Choral Speaking A:** Christian Bherth Daniel, 2nd Grade; Lyndon Digno, 2nd Grade; Raphael Galang, 2nd Grade; Christian Ted Pamintuan, 2nd Grade; Keith Gester Villasin, 2nd Grade

**3rd place, Impromptu Speaking A:** Areeza Anda, 1st Grade

**3rd place, Duo Interpretation A:** Kezia Arugay, 2nd Grade; Cloe Ferlyn Lagmay, 2nd Grade

**4th place, Humorous Inter-**

**pretation A:** Ariel Alysa Legaspi, 1st Grade

**4th place, Reader's Forum MB:** Kezia Arugay, 2nd Grade

**4th place, Reader's Forum B:** Jazmyne Phoeme Lopez, 2nd Grade

**4th place, Choral Speaking:** Angeline Faith Cacdac, 2nd Grade; Jazmyne Phoeme Lopez, 2nd Grade; Leunyce Regalado, 2nd Grade; Jhon Michael Napita, 2nd Grade

**5th place, Humorous Interpretation:** Raphael Galang, 2nd Grade

### 3-5 DIVISION

**1st place, Duo Interpretation**

**B:** Gia Gerrine Hemley, 4th Grade; Mikee Mame Mendoza, 4th Grade

**2nd place, Choral Speaking A:** Art Vincent Alfeche, 5th Grade; Kimverly Ann Dela Cruz, 5th Grade; Ian Willard Ranin, 5th Grade; Ashley Reganit, 5th Grade

**3rd place, Dramatic Interpretation:** Natalie Jane Hirschbein, 5th Grade

**3rd place, Reader's Forum MA:** Jody Coloma, 3rd Grade

**4th place, Duo Interpretation:** Natalie Jane Hirschbein, 5th Grade; Ashley Reganit, 5th Grade

**4th place, Choral Speak-**

**ing A:** Aldraine Galang, 4th Grade; Gia Gerrine Hemley, 4th Grade; Mikee Mame Mendoza, 4th Grade; Miles Gregory Navarro, 4th Grade; Renz Lester Satur, 4th Grade

### COACHES

K-5, Sony Natividad  
1st Grade, Meliza Umali  
2nd Grade, Bona Angeles  
3rd Grade, Ana Liza Quiambao  
4th Grade, Manuel Castro  
5th Grade and PGFC coordinator: Eleonor Alejo

### VOLUNTEER JUDGES

Lorelisa Espiritu, Paul Legaspi, Leah Alfred, and Cris Nunez.

## Life & Style

# The Onion apologizes for offensive actress tweet

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Onion is apologizing for calling the 9-year-old star of “Beasts of the Southern Wild” a vulgar and offensive name on Twitter, an attack that led to a firestorm online.

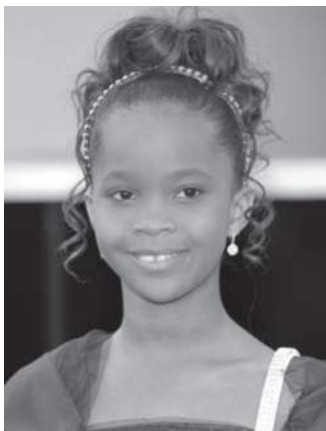
The satirical newspaper on Sunday referred to Quvenzhané Wallis with an expletive intended to denigrate women. The Onion was lambasted overnight and asked for forgiveness Monday.

“It was crude and offensive—not to mention inconsistent with The Onion’s commitment to parody and satire, however biting,” The Onion CEO Steve Hannah wrote on Facebook. “No person should be subjected to such a senseless, humorless comment masquerading as satire.”

Hannah said the offensive tweet was taken down within an hour and the newspaper has “instituted new and tighter Twitter procedures” to ensure it will never happen again. Those responsible would be disciplined, he added.

“Miss Wallis, you are young and talented and deserve better. All of us at The Onion are deeply sorry.”

A message sent to Quvenzhané’s representative seeking comment wasn’t immediately



AP  
Actress Quvenzhané Wallis arrives at the 85th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

returned Monday. She was the youngest-ever actress nominee at the Academy Awards.

The Onion’s original tweet

brought some calls for the fake news organization to publicly identify the writer of the tweet, vows to refuse to retweet its material, and requests from outraged consumers to email The Onion to complain.

Oscar host Seth MacFarlane also joked about the young star during the ceremony. Some found the quip offensive, albeit not to the degree of the outrage over The Onion’s tweet. MacFarlane joked that “it’ll be 16 years before she’s too old for” George Clooney.

Despite the attack, Quvenzhané had some reason to stay positive Sunday. By the time she’d arrived at the Oscar telecast, she could boast that she had been cast to play Annie in a contemporized adaptation of the

Broadway musical and the “Little Orphan Annie” comic strip to be directed by Will Gluck.

It wasn’t the first time The Onion has gotten into hot water for trying to push its humor. Last year, the site attracted public ire for an image that showed an airliner about to crash into Chicago’s Willis Tower. Despite an outcry, the Onion’s marketing director refused to back down.

Last year, the joke site made international headlines when the online version of China’s Communist Party newspaper hailed an Onion report naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the “Sexiest Man Alive”—apparently unaware it was satire.

In 2011, U.S. Capitol Police released a statement refuting tweets and an article claim-

ing members of Congress had taken a group of schoolchildren hostage. It included a doctored picture of Republican House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner holding a gun to a child’s head.

The Chicago-based publication was founded in 1988 by two students in Madison from the University of Wisconsin. Starting as a local college newspaper, it became a national comedy institution and went online in 1996, and has since developed a television news parody.

The publication is distributed weekly in cities, but it has also embraced Twitter and has an app for the iPad and other tablets. It says it averages 40 million page views and roughly 7.5 million unique visitors per month.

## Oscar hosting: Is it a thankless task?

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The love-him-or-hate-him reaction to Seth MacFarlane’s turn as Academy Awards host is evidence that one of the most high-profile jobs in show business is becoming one of its most thankless.

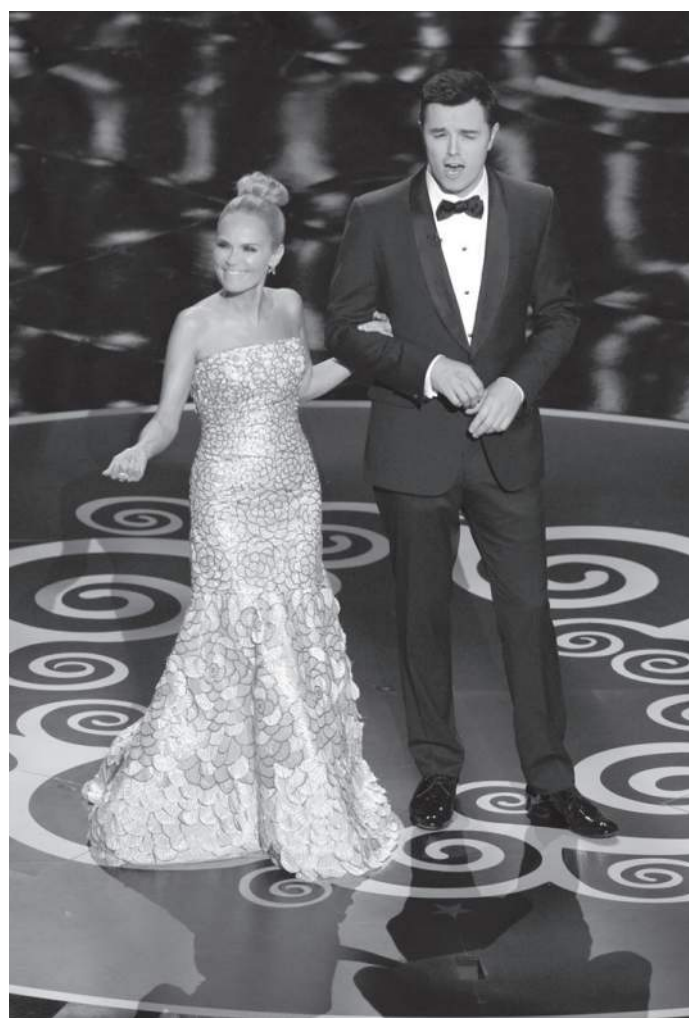
The “Family Guy” creator and first-time Oscars host seemed unusually preoccupied with his reviews both before and during Sunday’s show. He predicted he’d be ripped apart and he was, particularly on social media. He also had his fans, with many suggesting the motion picture academy got precisely the kind of performance it expected and wanted in hiring someone known for his subversive, even crude humor.

As is often the case with the Oscars, the major awards themselves—“Argo” as best picture, Daniel Day Lewis and Jennifer Lawrence as top actors—hewed closely to pre-show predictions. The host’s performance is the most unpredictable element of the show, and it seems the negative experiences have the most mileage. David Letterman’s awkward 1995 turn is well-remembered, most of all by him. Chris Rock tried to bring some edge in 2005 and fell flat. James Franco and Anne Hathaway’s snoozefest in 2011 is still being talked about.

After Franco and Hathaway, the Oscars returned last year to the tried and true—eight-time host Billy Crystal—and faced criticism that the reliable had become the stodgy.

To some ears, MacFarlane’s material—which included a song-and-dance number about breast-baring actresses, a domestic violence joke involving Rihanna and Chris Brown, and references to Mel Gibson’s racial slurs—didn’t make the grade.

“If you’re going to the edge, you have to be funny,” said



AP  
Host Seth MacFarlane, right, and actress Kristin Chenoweth perform a song dedicated to the “losers” during the finale of the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

comic Joy Behar on “The View” Monday. “To me, I love Seth, but it wasn’t funny enough.”

Behar’s colleague, Whoopi Goldberg—a four-time Oscars host—had a bit more empathy, noting that people in MacFarlane’s position have a tough line to walk. The Oscars can’t force a younger audience to be interested just by hiring a younger host, she said, and a younger host has to know the audience that is out there.

Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University’s Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture, agreed that MacFar-

lane’s was a difficult position.

“Your job description is that you are trying to appeal to people who are not necessarily watching the Oscars to get them to watch, and at the same time appeal to people who are actually watching it,” he said. “That’s not an easy thing to do.”

Arguably MacFarlane’s most offensive joke, measured by the audience’s groans, referred to actors who had tried to play Abraham Lincoln over the years. “I would argue that the actor who really got inside Lincoln’s head was John Wilkes Booth,” MacFarlane said of

Lincoln’s assassin.

In addition, a pre-taped song about movies where famous actresses displayed their breasts was seen by some women as sexist—and a much-echoed criticism of MacFarlane’s Oscar performance.

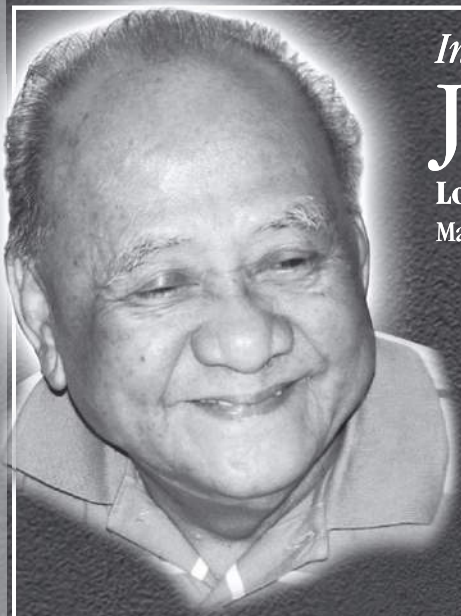
“Watching the Oscars last night meant sitting through a

series of crudely sexist antics led by a scrubby, self-satisfied Seth MacFarlane. That would be tedious enough,” wrote the New Yorker’s Amy Davidson. “But the evening’s misogyny involved a specific hostility to women in the workplace, which raises broader questions than whether the Academy can possibly get Tina Fey and Amy Poehler to host next year. It was unattractive and sour, and started with a number called ‘We

Saw Your Boobs.’”

On Monday, the Anti-Defamation League added itself to the list of those offended by MacFarlane, protesting his joke, through the teddy bear character in MacFarlane’s movie “Ted,” about Jewish control over Hollywood. The bear, voiced by MacFarlane, claimed he was “born Theodore Shapiro and I would like to donate money to Israel and continue to work in Hollywood forever.”

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Jose Santos Jr.**  
 Lovingly known as “Pepe”  
 March 5, 1930 - February 20, 2013



*Our Beloved Tatay...*  
*A most beautiful memory, dearer than gold,*  
*Of a Father whose worth can never be told,*  
*There's a place in our hearts no one can fill,*  
*We miss you, Tatay and always will.*

*Heavenly Father, bear our prayer,*  
*Guide our Tatay with most tender care,*  
*Love him in heaven as we did at home,*  
*The Dearest Father this world could hold.*

**His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:**  
**Wife:** Aurelia ‘Auring’ Santos

**Children and Families:**  
**Miriam** and Nathan Forrester  
**Helen** and Moises Castillo (Jett Kevin & Susan, Jac Jasmin, Dave Nicolas ‘Biboy’)  
**Jojo** and Lynn Santos (Joshua Santos)  
**Joanne** and Bernard Paraiso (Joanie, Joseph and Brianna Mae Paraiso)

Nightly Rosary is offered at 7:30 pm at the Santos’ Residence, Baranda Lane, San Vicente.

Memorial Services will be on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Viewing and last respects may be paid beginning at 8am, and our Holy Mass offering at 11am.

Private cremation will be in Guam on March 2, 2013.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

**Aurelia “Auring” Santos, Children & Families**

## Television ratings up for Oscars, to 40.3M people

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscars telecast was seen by 40.3 million people, a slight increase over last year's show.

The Nielsen Company said Monday it was the most-watched Oscars telecast in three years. Last year's show, when "The Artist" won best picture, had an audience of 39.3 million people. After bringing in "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane as host this year, ABC saw an 11 percent ratings boost over 2012 among viewers ages 18 to 49 years old.

The Academy Awards exceeded 40 million viewers four times in the previous 10 years.

The Oscars regained its traditional status as most-watched awards show, after the Grammy Awards topped it last year.

## Police: MC Hammer was pulled over for expired tags

DUBLIN, Calif. (AP)—A sheriff's department spokesman in Northern California says a Dublin police officer stopped and then arrested MC Hammer because the '90s rap star was driving a car with expired registration and refused to get out of the vehicle.

Lt. Herb Walters of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said in a statement issued Monday that Hammer was "very argumentative" with the officer during the traffic stop late Thursday. He says it's unclear who owns the car.

Hammer eventually came out of the car and was arrested for investigation of obstructing an officer in the performance of his duties.

Hammer, who was born Stanley Burrell, has offered a different account, suggesting he was the victim of racial profiling. He tweeted on Saturday that the officer asked him if he were on parole or probation and tried to pull him out through the car window.



From left, Daniel Day-Lewis, with his award for best actor in a leading role for "Lincoln," Jennifer Lawrence, with her award for best actress in a leading role for "Silver Linings Playbook," Anne Hathaway, with her award for best actress in a supporting role for "Les Misérables," and Christoph Waltz, with his award for best actor in a supporting role for "Django Unchained," pose during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

## Janet Jackson says she married Al Mana last year

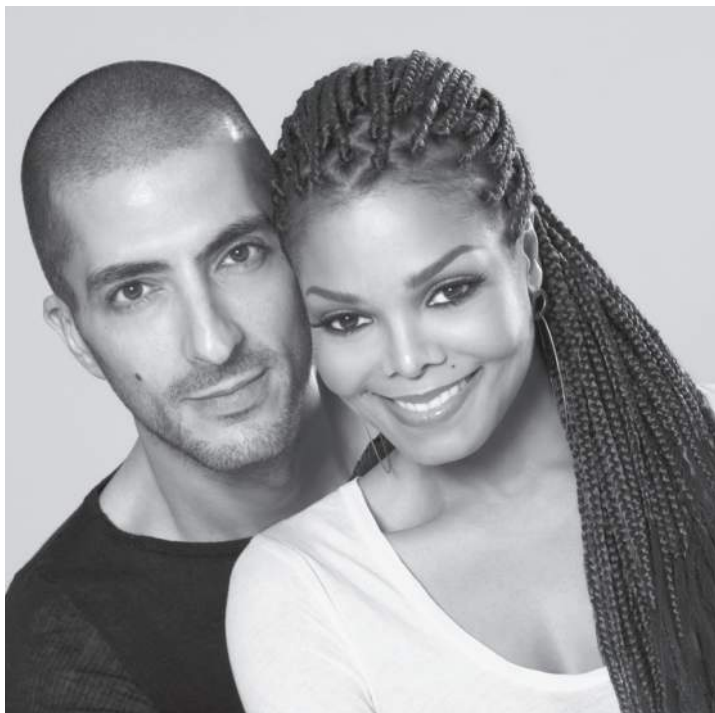
NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson knows how to keep a secret: The singer has been married since last year.

A representative for Jackson confirmed Monday that the musician and Wissam Al Mana wed last year.

This is Jackson's second secret marriage. She secretly married Rene Elizondo Jr. in 1991. They separated in 1999.

The 46-year-old Jackson first tied the knot when she was 18 to singer James DeBarge, which lasted three months in 1984. In a joint statement to Entertainment Tonight, Jackson and Al Mana said their wedding was a "quiet, private and beautiful ceremony."

The couple also said they would like privacy and "are allowed this time for celebration and joy."



This 2012 publicity photo provided by Guttman Associates shows Janet Jackson with Wissam Al Mana, in a portrait taken by photographer, Marco Glaviano.

## Ravens' Jones joins 'Dancing With the Stars'

BALTIMORE (AP)—Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones is the newest contestant to join TV's "Dancing With the Stars."

Jones was the first contestant announced Sunday night

for the show's new season. The announcement came during a commercial that aired during ABC's telecast of the Academy Awards. The other new contestants will be announced Tuesday on "Good

Morning America." The show premieres March 18.

Jones is known for his dance moves in the end zone after a touchdown.

Three other NFL players have won the competition:

Emmitt Smith, Hines Ward and Donald Driver.

Jones was one of the Ravens' stars in their Super Bowl victory, scoring two touchdowns. He began his NFL career when he was drafted by the Houston Texans in 2009. He was signed by the Ravens last year.

## Singer Morrissey says no to Kimmel, 'Duck Dynasty'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The TV series "Duck Dynasty" is coming between Morrissey and Jimmy Kimmel.

The singer and animal rights activist says he canceled his appearance Tuesday on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" because "Duck Dynasty" cast members will be on the talk show.

Morrissey says he can't perform on a show with what he called people who "amount to animal serial killers."

A&E's "Duck Dynasty" reality show follows a Louisiana family with a business selling



duck calls and decoys.

A&E did not immediately respond to requests for comment from it and the Robertson family.

A person familiar with the Kimmel show's plans confirmed that Morrissey was to appear. The person lacked authority to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The person says Morrissey's performance will be rescheduled.

ABC says the Churchill band will perform Tuesday on Kimmel's show but declined comment on the switch.

## Man's online porn addiction robs marriage of its passion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I need help and I can't talk to anyone I know, so I'm pouring my heart out to you. My husband is addicted to online porn. Our sex life has suffered massively because of it. He seems uninterested in sex with me. I had a feeling that it might be something or someone else.

My woman's intuition told me there had to be a reason for him turning to porn, so I checked our computer's history log and found he has been surfing gay porn. He does watch straight porn, but now peppers it with male-on-male porn as well.

It has shattered my world. I don't know what to think or what to do. I can't discuss this with my family. They would never view him in the same way again. Help!

J. IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND

**DEAR J.: Your husband may be curious, bisexual or have discovered (late) that he is gay. It happens. You need to have a frank conversation with him. Remain calm, stay strong and remember that you, too, are entitled to a sex life. You have nothing to lose by discussing this, and everything to gain.**

**If you need more help afterward, consider going online and contacting the Straight Spouse Network at [www.straightspouse.org](http://www.straightspouse.org).**

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been in therapy for four years. I like my therapist, who has helped me immensely. However, over the past year she has become increasingly tardy in keeping her appointment times.

I understand there are sometimes emergencies, but being a half-hour late every week is excessive. I feel it is disrespectful to me. She keeps saying I just don't understand.

How can I get across to her how frustrated I am? Or do I need to find a new therapist?

BY THE CLOCK IN CONNECTICUT

**DEAR BY THE CLOCK: Tell your therapist exactly how this is affecting you and ask what HER problem is. She owes you an explanation.**

**I agree that being late for your appointment is disrespectful if it happens regularly. You may need to find another therapist. If that's the case, be sure to tell her why you are leaving. It takes courage to be assertive, but it will help you in your personal growth.**

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please help me with a delicate situation between me and my husband of seven years.

For our 20th anniversary, my first husband gave me a diamond anniversary ring. After running across it again, I have recently started wearing it.

My husband is very offended that I have chosen to do this. I wear it on the middle finger of my left hand. (The knuckle on my right hand was broken when I was a teen and it won't fit on that hand.)

I have tried explaining that there is no sentimental reason for wearing the ring. It's just a beautiful piece of jewelry. He doesn't want me to wear it at all, but I do. Do you have any advice?

LIKES THE SPARKLE IN WISCONSIN

**DEAR LIKES THE SPARKLE: While the ring may be just a beautiful piece of jewelry to you, to your husband it may symbolize the 20-plus years you spent with someone else. Ask if he would mind if you had the stones in the ring remounted into something you could wear on your right hand—or consider selling it and using the money to buy another piece of jewelry that would be less threatening to your current spouse.**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

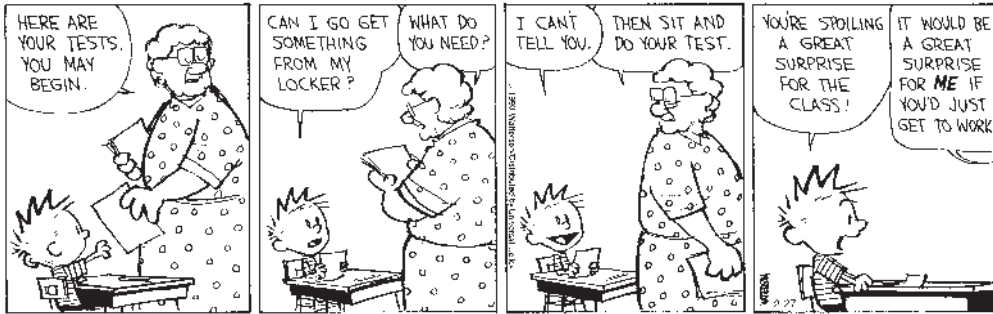
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Lather  
5 Diner  
8 Un-  
12 On  
13 Always,  
14 Patriot  
15 Irrational  
17 Artillery  
18 Follow  
19 1984  
21 Flightless  
22 Knoll  
23 Energy  
26 North  
28 Surveys  
31 Leading  
33 A mere  
35 Cry

**DOWN**

11 Netting  
16 City in  
20 4-Down,  
23 Tase  
24 Altar  
25 Eden  
27 "30 Rock"  
29 Shelter  
30 Hot tub  
32 Busy-  
34 Fluctu-  
37 Scale  
39 Actress  
42 Old photo  
44 Micro-  
45 Existed  
46 Acknowl-  
48 Lima's  
49 Saw-  
50 Undo a  
53 — Baba

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 2-27**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kate Mara, 30; Josh Groban, 32; Rozonda 'Chilli' Thomas, 42; Donal Logue, 47

**Happy Birthday:** Unusual opportunities will develop. Taking care of pending financial, legal or medical problems will make it easier for you to focus on your goals. Love and romance along with self-improvement will be attainable. Listen to your heart and follow a creative path that makes you happy. A partnership will be beneficial. Your numbers are 9, 11, 20, 28, 32, 37, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Get on with your life. You may be feeling emotional, but don't give in or give up. Take a look at your options before moving forward with contracts or commitments. Be true to yourself. Make things happen. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The time spent working out details will pay off and bring you closer to your life goal. Favors will be granted if you are willing to offer what you can in return. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Avoid any risky involvements. Too much trust will cost you emotionally, financially and physically if you aren't careful. Discipline will keep you out of trouble and help you establish your place in the market in which you work. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Over-confidence is your enemy. Work quietly behind the scenes and you will accomplish something that will eventually bring you the recognition you desire. Love is highlighted,

and personal improvements should be considered and made. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Money and health matters must not be ignored. Follow through with paperwork in order to get the best results. Additional responsibilities can also bring you financial gains. Cut your costs and secure your position. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** A personal change will verify that you were in need of a pick-me-up in order to move in a positive direction. Partnerships can enhance your life and lead to an unusual path that will allow you to put your attributes to good use. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Keep a close eye on what everyone around you is doing. You will come up with some good ideas and workable solutions. Emotional extravagance will not help you get what you want in your personal life. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You don't have to spend big money in order to make your point or prompt someone to show affection. It's important to offer good conversation, affection and equality in all aspects of life in order to achieve a sustainable relationship. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't believe everything you hear. You are up against someone who has ulterior motives. A change at home may be required in order to avoid someone unpredictable. A poor influence could lead you astray and blame you for what transpires. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Attend a reunion or make a point of reconnecting with someone who you feel has something to offer. Taking an unusual direction is not your normal procedure, but this time it will pay off. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Turn your space into a place that will enhance your ability to follow a dream or create a project that can help you make a little extra cash. You will learn a lot if you observe past mistakes and other people's failures. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Live and breathe what you want to accomplish. Let your dreams lead the way and don't give up until you have reached a point that makes you feel comfortable about your future goals. Romance late in the day will help ease your stress. ★★★

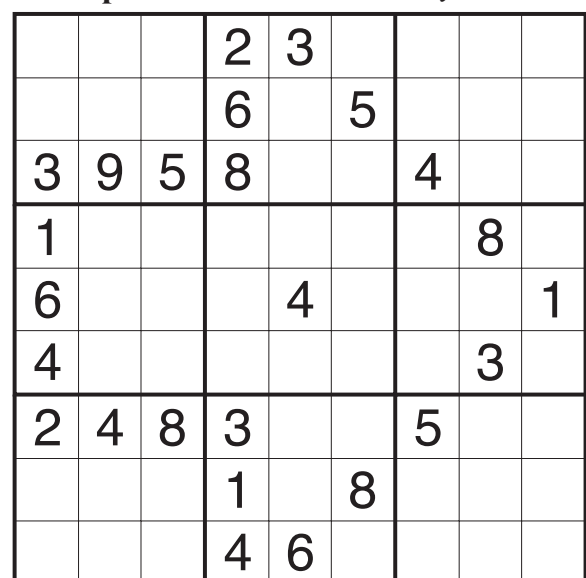
**Birthday Baby:** You are intuitive, imaginative and eager to lend a helping hand.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

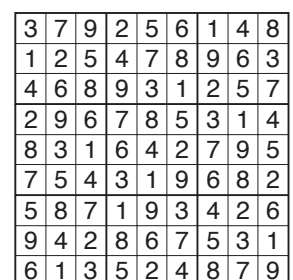


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

2/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/26

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAVI SHANKAR (1920-2012)

Solution: 10 letters



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Actor, Apu, Awards, Ballet, Bangla, Composer, Dadra, Dancer, Decade, Demo, Desh, Dhun, East, Films, Flute, Genius, Harrison, Hindu, Humanity, India, Instrument, Jones, Khan, Love, Melody, Musician, Norah, Pluck, Professor, Raga, Ravi, Recitals, Sitar, String, Sukanya, Tarana, Teacher, Tours, Trilogy, Uday, Unique, Violin, West, Woodstock, Writer, Youth

**Yesterday's Answer: Burberry**  
Burberry is a British fashion and accessories company. It was founded in 1856 by Thomas Burberry. The company is known for its trench coats and checkered pattern. It is a member of the LVMH group.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Sister-in-law

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$30</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$45</b>

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

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## VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

## COOK

Please apply in person at the  
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.  
Human Resources Office  
Joeten Center, Susupe

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

### Job Vacancy Announcement

#### 1 - Building Maintenance Repairer

Salary: 5.55/hr

Installs, maintains and repairs machinery, equipment, physical structures and pipe and electrical systems in Horiguchi Bldg using hand tools, power tools, hoist, crane and testing instruments and following specification blueprints, manuals and schematic diagrams by visual inspection and tests. Assist on other maintenance duties as assigned.

Interested applicants may contact  
Fuji Pacific, Inc. at 234-0583  
and ask for Nita San Nicolas  
or fax resume to 234-3605.



### COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147  
email: administration@cda.gov.mp

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**POSITION VACANCY:** Loan Officer IV  
**ANNUAL SALARY:** \$24,889.350 – 30,246.740

This position is a senior level position responsible for developing new business, underwriting, restructuring, closing of loans, maintaining and servicing existing loan portfolios. The position requires the individual to participate in marketing CDA's loan programs and services and explore other funding resources and opportunities to leverage CDA's funds. The individual must possess a high degree of knowledge and comprehension in economics, finance, and business and is required to maintain a reasonable relationship with clients and provide technical assistance within his or her capacity.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a Bachelor's degree in finance, economics, or related business field, plus five (5) years of experience in professional level commercial real estate lending, financial and credit analysis work or related field.

A detail duties and responsibilities and employment application may be obtained at the CDA Office, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or CDA's website at [www.cda.gov.mp](http://www.cda.gov.mp). Applications **must be submitted to the OPM** by Friday, March 8, 2013 closing date.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at 234-6245 ext.310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan  
Executive Director

### Joe's Bar & Steak House Capital Job Vacancy Announcement

#### WAITRESS (3)

Qualifications:

- High School graduate or equivalent with at least minimum of 3 years experience in bar operation.
- With good customer service and strong communication skills required.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Ability to speak Japanese and Chinese is a plus.

#### COOK (2)

Qualifications:

- High School graduate or equivalent with at least a minimum of 5 years experience in preparation of Steak and International cuisine.
- Must possess an excellent hygiene and cleanliness to work station.
- Fast and efficient worker.
- Must be knowledgeable in marketing of foods and supplies.
- Able to work flexible hours.

Applications may be obtained at Joe's Bar & Steakhouse Capital's office located in Garapan. Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Application deadline is March 6, 2013, NLT 5:00 p.m.

Background check is required.

For more information, please contact 235-6657.

Joe's Bar & Steak House Capital is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Computer Repair

Only **\$15** Restore OS  
Student Laptop Call for more info.  
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FREE INSTALLATION  
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Open: Monday-Saturday  
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Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866  
\$100 Security Deposit Required  
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio  
Some conditions may apply

### Job Vacancy Announcement

Closing Date: March 4, 2013

- (1) Business Operations Manager
- (1) Sales/Accounting Clerk
- (1) Air-con Technician

Please send resume to  
**MANTRADE COMPANY INC.**  
P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE ACCOUNTANT

Submit resume to:  
**International Insurance Agency**  
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

**American K&W Corporation**  
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950  
**Job Vacancy Announcement**  
**(1) Cook – Chinese Cuisine**  
Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 3 - 5 yrs exp.  
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Salary \$5.55 p/h. Min. 2 yrs exp.  
Interested applicants may call  
Yang Xia at 233-9468

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LOCATED IN SAN ANTONIO  
FOR MORE INFO CALL 285-0478

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- Warehouse Space & Equipment Rental/Sales
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Located in Lower Base (Industrial Area)  
For inquiries, please call 989-8809

**Medical Sales Representative**  
\$5.55 to \$ 8.00/hr

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology or other related field
- 1-year experience in sales and handling of medical supplies, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and reagents.
- Able to prepare sales and budget reports, cost analysis and inventory reports.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Available to work during nights and weekends
- Valid CNMI driver's license

\*\*Applicants may be interviewed and tested.

Email your applications to:  
[medpharm@medpharmusa.net](mailto:medpharm@medpharmusa.net)  
or call: 670-323-9111

### JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.

#### IMMEDIATE JOB VACANCY

#### One (1) AIR-CON/REF TECHNICIAN

- Install, service and repair of ventilation, central air conditioning and refrigeration systems
- Perform, repair and trouble analysis of VAV and WT Control System and Electrical/Electronic Control Systems
- Repair and Service Chilled Water Air Conditioning system. Experience with turbocore compressors and control a plus.
- Specific work experience with Manitowoc Ice Machines, Taylor Ice Cream Machines, Walk-in Refrigeration System, and other food service equipment a plus
- EPA SECTION 608 AND R-410A Certified Required.

Application can be obtained from and submitted to JWS AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION, INC.'s Office at Dotse Place, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan OR Email to: [tonysjwssaipan@pticom.com](mailto:tonysjwssaipan@pticom.com); or [jwssaipan@pticom.com](mailto:jwssaipan@pticom.com)

### EMPLOYMENT

(2) Jewelry Appraiser - Must have 4/5 yrs experience in jewelry appraisal, honest & trustworthy. Must be familiar w/ Microsoft word, excel & peachtree. Applicants must mail resume w/ valid identifications, police clearance & previous employment certifications to PLATINUM INC. 326 PPP Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call Y and B Corporation dba Apartment and Space Rental at 433-5031.

1-Consultant. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni at 288-1168.

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni/Ukay-Ukay at 288-1168.

1-Manager. Salary \$5.55/hr. College graduate. Call J and K Tinian Corp. dba Tinian Noni at 288-1168.

Cement Laborer - \$5.55/hr Cement handling equipment preferred. Apply at Hanson Micronesia Cement

### WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

### WANTED TO BUY

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website [www.saipan-properties.com](http://www.saipan-properties.com). Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

**Wanted — (1) Technician** with knowledge and skill in the operation of a screw type oil press and the processing of oils from nuts. H.S. diploma and 2 years experience preferred. Salary: \$5.55-\$6.05/hr. Call Mt. Tapochau Farms at 285-5730 for more info.

**Wanted — Commercial cleaner** for diving business on Rota. Five years experience, high school diploma, 2 letters of recommendation from former employers and police clearance required. Minimum salary. Call 532-3423 for interview.

## HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL

P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338  
TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX (670) 237-2529

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Open Date:** February 19, 2013  
**Close Date:** March 1, 2013

**Position:** (1) **Supervisor, Reservation**  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour  
**Job Qualification:** minimum AA Degree / College Graduated (2) Years Experience, Japanese Speaking.

**Position:** (5) **Cook**  
**Salary:** \$5.55 per hour  
**Job Qualification:** High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact  
Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources  
Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2.  
Employment application forms are available at  
Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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#### Ocean Club, Inc. - Vacancy Announcement

**(1) MANAGER-DIVING** Directs overall operation of business and related matters in diving activities and lodging. Directs and coordinates necessary workflow of a busy training facility. Requirement in management include ability to work in a distracting, fast-paced environment and adapt to changes; must possess excellent client / customer-service and interpersonal communication skills; must maintain meticulous record and files, and be computer literate (i.e. familiar with recent versions of Microsoft office and internet programs); basic understanding for concept of laws and regulations a plus. Requirement in diving instruction include ability to train scuba diving instructor candidates and CPR instructor candidates; teach sports and diving activities to individuals or groups by explaining and demonstrating principle techniques and movement of body, hands or feet to achieve proficiency in activities, explain and demonstrate the use of scuba diving by the standard of N.A.U.I., and guide and accompany them in diving tour, etc. Consulting knowledge and marketing skill for boat building a plus. Must be college graduate with at least 2 yrs. management experience in the diving field required. 5years preferred Must possess Certification (NAUI) as Dive Instructor for community (5-10yrs experience preferred), Specialty trainer (with minimum 2 yrs. experience and as CPR instructor for community First Aid and Safety. Certification as Course Director, a plus. Proficiency in Japanese language (both oral and written) critical. Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00pm, semi-monthly salary with housing provided. Interested applicants must submit a resume with supporting certification documents and police clearance in person to Ocean Club, Inc, or send via email at [cnmi@live.com](mailto:cnmi@live.com).

## ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

### (01) BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or application to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please contact Judy Arriola a 234-2903 ext 124.

# Chandler leads Nuggets past Lakers, 119-108



**DENVER** (AP)—Wilson Chandler scored 23 points in place of an injured Danilo Gallinari, and Ty Lawson added 22 in the Denver Nuggets' 119-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night.

Gallinari, the Nuggets' leading scorer, sat out with a bruised left thigh. He wasn't needed as the Nuggets won their ninth straight game at home, snapped the Lakers' four-game winning streak and took the season series from their long-time nemesis 3-1.

The Lakers, who were shut out on the offensive glass in the first half, wanted to slow down the Nuggets but Denver out-scored Los Angeles 33-3 in fast-break points.

Gallinari, who got hurt Friday night at Washington and was limited the next night at Charlotte, was an unexpected late scratch. Averaging 16.9 points, he had scored at least 19 in each of Denver's first three games against the Lakers.

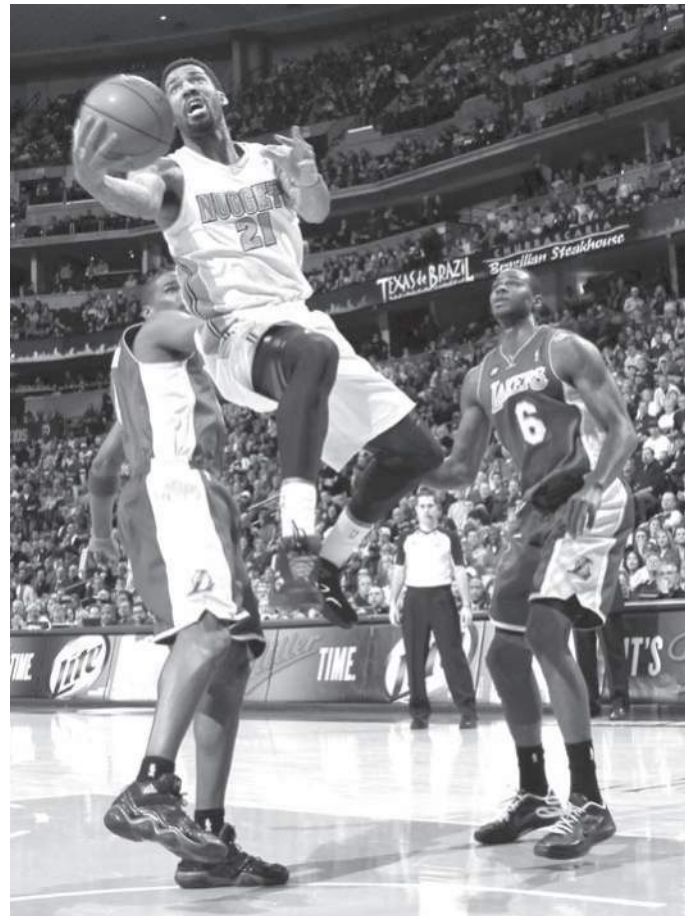
Chandler started in his place and Corey Brewer got extended minutes, too, finishing with 16 points.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 29 points, and Dwight Howard added 15 points and 14 boards but missed 11 of his last 12 free throws.

The Lakers trimmed an 18-point, second-half deficit to 106-99 on Bryant's fadeaway jumper with five minutes left but couldn't get any closer.

Nuggets coach George Karl said before the game that he was expecting Gallinari to start. He also said that Bryant was playing as well as ever for the resurgent Lakers, who are fighting for a playoff spot after a slow start, a rash of injuries and a coaching change.

"He told me when they beat us last year in the playoffs that he was getting old. He was lying, man. He looks healthier and younger now than he did last



AP  
Denver Nuggets forward Wilson Chandler, center, drives the lane for a basket past Los Angeles Lakers forwards Antawn Jamison, left, and Earl Clark in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 119-108 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver on Monday, Feb. 25, 2013.

year," Karl said. "And the shots he's making are just a coach's nightmare."

Bryant finally found his shooting touch Monday night but started out cold and was hounded by JaVale McGee. He missed 6 of 7 shots in the first quarter, with one of McGee's blocks leading to a fast-break bucket by Brewer as the Nuggets started to separate themselves barely 10 minutes into the game.

Bryant hit his first four shots in the second quarter, but again McGee's big block led to a fast-break basket, this one by Lawson as the Nuggets took a 67-54 lead at the half.

A flustered Bryant picked up a technical foul on his way to the locker room.

The Nuggets stretched their lead to 18 points in the third

quarter before the Lakers cut it to 95-83 heading into the final 12 minutes.

Karl also praised Bryant's teammates, saying the Lakers, no matter their record, still represent a measuring stick for his young lineup.

"The Lakers are the greatest NBA basketball team in our lifetimes and they're great players, so I think it's pretty easy to get motivated for this game," Karl said. "I had butterflies real early. I wish the game had started quicker."

#### Celtics 110, Jazz 107, OT

In Salt Lake City, Paul Pierce scored 26 points, including seven straight in overtime, and Boston beat Utah to close out a five-game road trip.

Pierce had a chance to win it in regulation, but his 19-footer

at the buzzer rimmed out.

Courtney Lee made two free throws with 1.2 seconds left in overtime to bump Boston's lead to three, and Randy Foye's 26-footer at the buzzer missed everything.

Avery Bradley added a season-high 18 points for Boston.

Gordon Hayward led Utah with 26 points, Paul Millsap had 16 and Al Jefferson finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

#### Hawks 114, Pistons 103

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Al Horford had 23 points and 22 rebounds, and Atlanta beat Detroit for its fifth win in six games.

Josh Smith added 23 points for the Hawks, who were ahead 61-51 at halftime and led by as many as 26 in the third quarter.

The Pistons have lost three straight, all without guard Brandon Knight, who has a hyperextended right knee. Will Bynum was also out Monday because of a suspension.

Jeff Teague had 20 points for Atlanta, which shot 14 of 33 from 3-point range. Kyle Korver scored 15 points, all from beyond the arc.

Rodney Stuckey led Detroit with 22 points, and Jonas Jerebko added 21.

#### Wizards 90, Raptors 84

In Toronto, Bradley Beal scored 20 points, Nene had 11 points and nine rebounds, and Washington beat Toronto for its third straight victory.

A.J. Price and Martell Webster each added 12 points for the Wizards, who won for just the fifth time in 27 road games this season. Washington's road record is the worst in the NBA.

John Wall had 10 points and seven assists, and Emeka Okafor had eight points and 13 rebounds as the Wizards won for the 14th time in 23 games.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points and Kyle Lowry had 18 for the Raptors, who had won six of their previous seven.



### NBA BRIEFS

#### Thunder sign point guard Derek Fisher

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder signed veteran Derek Fisher on Monday, filling an opening for a third point guard that was created when Eric Maynor got traded to Portland. Fisher joins Oklahoma City for the stretch run for the second straight season. He played in 20 regular-season games and then all 20 playoff games last season. He played briefly for the Dallas Mavericks this season, asking for his release in December after injuring his right knee. Fisher won five NBA championships with the Los Angeles Lakers before getting traded to Houston last season, then buying his way out of his contract with the Rockets. Fisher is also the president of

the NBA Players Association, which recently ousted longtime executive director Billy Hunter.

#### Wolves' Chase Budinger cleared for agility drills

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Minnesota Timberwolves forward Chase Budinger has been cleared by doctors to start doing agility drills while he works his way back from a knee injury that has kept him out for most of the season. The team says Budinger was cleared on Monday and will start doing more running on the court in addition to some cutting and jumping on his surgically repaired left knee. Budinger will be re-evaluated in two to three weeks, putting his return to the court likely closer to the end of March. He tore the lateral meniscus in his knee in the sixth

game of the season. The loss robbed the Wolves of a much-needed perimeter shooter and versatile swingman. The Wolves start a three-game road trip in Phoenix on Tuesday.

#### NBA investigating Cuban's comments about amnestying Bryant

After Mark Cuban told the "Ben and Skin" radio show that the Lakers might want to consider amnestying Kobe Bryant, Kobe dropped 38 points against Cuban's team and tweeted "Amnesty THAT" in response. Now it looks like Bryant isn't the only one unhappy with Cuban's comments. The league is debating fining Cuban for saying that the Lakers should consider waiving Bryant via

the amnesty provision, reports The Los Angeles Times. Cuban could be in hot water for violating tampering charges. Owners shouldn't discuss other team's business matters, contracts, or free agents. Cuban's comments did fit that criteria. "If you look at their payroll, even if Dwight (Howard) comes back, you've got to ask the question: Should they amnesty Kobe?" Cuban said Friday. "So I'm just saying that hypothetically. When I say amnesty Kobe, I don't think they'd do it, but they've got some choices to make. Now, they're in a big market, but they're still limited. The Knicks, the same thing. Boston, same thing." Cuban is already the most fined NBA history; another fine would be unsurprising. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))

# Source: Tom Brady gets 3-year extension

By BARRY WILNER  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Tom Brady will be a Patriot until he is 40 years old.

Brady agreed to a three-year contract extension with New England on Monday, a person familiar with the contract told The Associated Press. The extension is worth about \$27 million and will free up nearly \$15 million in salary cap room for the team, which has several younger players it needs to re-sign or negotiate new deals with.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the extension has not been announced.

*Sports Illustrated* first reported the extension.

The 35-year-old two-time league MVP was signed through 2014, and has said he wants to play at least five more years.

A three-time Super Bowl champion, Brady will make far less in those three seasons than the going rate for star quarterbacks. Brady currently has a four-year, \$72 million deal with \$48 million guaranteed.

Drew Brees and Peyton Manning are the NFL's highest-paid quarterbacks, at an average of \$20 million and \$18 million a year, respectively.

Brady has made it clear he wants to finish his career with the Patriots,



In this Dec. 2, 2012, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady looks for a receiver during the second half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in Miami. AP

whom he led to Super Bowl wins for the 2001, 2003 and 2004 seasons, and losses in the big game after the 2007 and 2011 seasons. By taking less money in the extension and redoing his current contract, he's hopeful New England can surround him with the parts to win more titles.

Among the Patriots' free agents are top receiver Wes Welker and his backup, Julian Edelman; right tackle Sebastian Vollmer; cornerback Aqib Talib; and running back Danny Woodhead.

Brady has been the most successful quarterback of his era, of course, as well as one of the NFL's best leaders. His skill at running the no-huddle offense is unsurpassed, and he's easily adapted to the different offensive schemes New England has concentrated on through his 13 pro seasons.

The Patriots have gone from run-oriented in Brady's early days to a deep passing team with Randy Moss to an offense dominated by throws to tight ends, running backs and slot receivers.

Brady holds the NFL record for touchdown passes in a season with 50 in 2007, when the Patriots went 18-0 before losing the Super Bowl to the Giants. He has thrown for at least 28 touchdowns seven times and led the league three times.

Last season, Brady had 34 TD passes and eight interceptions as the Patriots went 12-4, leading the league with 557 points, 76 more than runner-up Denver.

## Small-school guys get their shot at NFL combine

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Armonty Bryant gets those awkward looks every time he tells someone he attends college at ECU.

Naturally, the first inclination is to ask about East Carolina. When he explains the school name is actually East Central, the next question, naturally, is East Central what?

No, Bryant is not the most prominent defensive lineman at this year's annual NFL scouting combine and he doesn't come from a school most football fans have even heard of. Yet he impressed enough of the right people to earn one of 333 invites to the NFL's annual scouting combine so he can compete against all those big-name guys he's been watching on television the last few years.

"I hear it all the time. They think it's supposed to be East Central Michigan or something," he said. "East Central is in Ada, Okla. I like to say it's in the middle of nowhere."

Here, all 29 players from the non-Football Bowl Subdivision schools have a story.

Some, such as Tennessee Tech re-

ceiver Da'Rick Rogers, are actually FBS transplants. Rogers landed with Tech, Jim Youngblood's alma mater, last August after getting booted off Tennessee's team for failing a drug test.

Others, such as Bryant and Azusa Pacific offensive lineman Luke Marquardt, outgrew their small-school monikers long ago but never got a chance to face the bigger-name players until now. Bryant was listed at 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds last season. Scouts believe he can play either defensive end or outside linebacker.

Marquardt came to Indianapolis at 6-8 1/2 and 315 pounds and did 31 reps at 225 pounds on the bench press Friday.

The only real difference between them and their higher-profile colleagues? Probably visibility.

Bryant had only two scholarship offers in high school—Abilene Christian and East Central.

Marquardt gave up football in high school, choosing instead to focus on basketball. When Azusa Pacific offered him scholarship money for football, he gave it a whirl. In 2 1/2 years, he made the transition from walk-on basketball

player to prized pupil of NFL Hall of Famer Jackie Slater, Azusa Pacific's offensive line coach.

"Just by chance we were walking by the head coach's football locker, and I decided to go meet him," Marquardt said. "He was like, 'You have great size, great athleticism and we'd love to have you come out for tight end,' so I went out on the field, did a couple routes, threw with the quarterbacks and they offered me a little bit of money and then I eventually got a full-ride scholarship."

Of course, it's not that easy for everyone.

At 6-6, 325 pounds, Glenville State's Mark Jackson has the size NFL scouts covet in an offensive lineman and is athletic enough to have caught a 14-yard TD pass on a tackle-eligible play in 2010.

Now he's trying to rewrite history.

The last player to be drafted from Division II's West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference was Salem's Jeff Shaw in 1986. He went to the Cincinnati Bengals in the 10th round, a round that no longer exists in this sev-

en-round draft. Former Denver tight end Orson Mobley, also from Salem, was taken in the sixth round that year.

Twenty-seven years later, Jackson is the league's best hope to end the drought.

"It kind of freaks me out," Jackson said. "Going to Glenville State, I was a little worried about getting my exposure out there, but my coaches did a great job at putting my film together and getting it out there. There is some good football played in my conference."

And somehow the scouts still found a guy like Jackson in a nook like Glenville, W. Va., population 1,538, with a student enrollment at Glenville State of fewer than 2,000.

In 2010, the scouts' favorite diamond-in-the-rough was little-known offensive tackle Jared Veldheer from Hillsdale College in Michigan. He wound up being taken by the Raiders in the third round and has started 43 games over the past three seasons.

Going small school, though, doesn't necessarily mean NFL teams are avoiding the kind of trouble that exists at bigger schools.

Rogers, of course, admitted to the failed drug test, and Bryant is trying to rebuild his reputation after last fall's arrest on charges of marijuana distribution in a school zone. He said a police officer spotted him selling marijuana to a friend in a dorm parking lot. Later, he was pulled aside at practice and subsequently arrested. Bryant said he was given a five-year deferred sentence and two years of supervised probation.

Being at a small school prevented the arrest from grabbing national attention and becoming Bryant's legacy.

"Maybe it would have been a different situation, maybe it would have been handled differently," Bryant said when asked about whether he had considered what the consequence might have been if he was at a BCS-conference school.

Instead, he continued to play and played well enough to earn a ticket to Indy, where he's now lining up against the likes of LSU's Barkevious Mingo and Florida's Sharrif Floyd and Alabama's Jesse Williams.

"I love being the underdog," Marquardt said. "I love coming in here and catching people's eye. I definitely feel there's some intrigue and I'm excited to prove myself at the next level."

## Manti Te'o finally gets chance to focus on football

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Manti Te'o's first appearance on a football field since the BCS championship game didn't go as well as planned Monday.

The Notre Dame star and Heisman Trophy runner-up was clocked at 4.82 seconds in the 40-yard dash. NFL Network draft analyst Mike Mayock had said Sunday anything faster than 4.7 would be "phenomenal." Anything 4.8 or over would be a "concern."

The workout came more than a month after Te'o's highly-publicized online ro-

mance with a girlfriend was exposed as a hoax and that he was a victim of the hoax.

Since then, he's done a handful of 1-on-1 interviews and took questions Saturday in one of the craziest scenes in NFL scouting combine history. Reporters crowded around the podium, lining up eight deep to hear Te'o talk one more time about what happened.

Some have wondered if the embarrassing story was a distraction leading into the national championship game, in which Te'o and his Notre Dame

teammates played poorly in a blowout loss to Alabama.

The linebacker said Saturday the hoax had no impact on that game. And he insists it has not affected his preparation for the combine, either.

But instead of putting those concerns to rest with a good showing Monday, Te'o fell short of his goals again—and not just in the 40.

Te'o participated in five of the seven drills, opting out of the bench press and 60-yard shuttle, and did not finish

ranked among the top five at his position in any of them.

His vertical jump was 33 inches, far below Southern Mississippi's Jamie Collins' positional best of 41 1/2. Te'o jumped 113 inches in the broad jump. He finished the three-cone drill in 7.13 seconds, well off the pace set by Missouri's Zaviar Gooden (6.71). Te'o completed the 20-yard shuttle in 4.27 seconds, again behind Gooden's 4.18.

After the workouts, which were closed to the media, Te'o told NFL

Network that he could have done better—and that he will at next month's Pro Day at Notre Dame.

Scouts also have been curious to see how former LSU cornerback Tyrann Mathieu would perform in Indy after getting kicked off his college team last summer and took the entire season off.

Mathieu didn't do well Monday, either. He did only four reps on the 225-pound bench press, tied with Appalachian State's Demetrius McCray for the lowest among all defensive backs.

The defensive backs will complete their workouts Tuesday, the final day of the combine.

# Dennis Rodman worms his way into North Korea

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—Flamboyant former NBA star Dennis Rodman is heading to North Korea with VICE media company—tattoos, piercings, bad-boy reputation and all.

The American known as “The Worm” is set to arrive Tuesday in Pyongyang, becoming an unlikely ambassador for sports diplomacy at a time of heightened tensions between the U.S. and North Korea.

Rodman, three members of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team, a VICE correspondent and a production crew from the company are visiting North Korea to shoot footage for a new TV show set to air on HBO in early April, VICE told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview before the group’s departure from Beijing.

It’s the second high-profile American visit this year to North Korea, a country that remains in a state of war with the U.S. It also comes two weeks after North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test in defiance of U.N. bans against atomic and missile activity.

Google’s executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, made a surprise four-day trip to Pyongyang, where he met with officials and toured computer labs in January, just weeks after North Korea launched a satellite into space on the back of a long-range rocket.

Washington, Tokyo, Seoul and others consider both the rocket launch and the nuclear test provocative acts that threaten regional security.

North Korea characterizes the satellite launch as a peaceful bid to explore space, but says the nuclear test was meant as a deliberate warning to Washington. Pyongyang says it needs to build nuclear weapons to defend itself against the U.S., and is believed to be trying to build an atomic bomb small enough to mount on a missile capable of reaching the mainland U.S.

VICE said the Americans hope to engage in a little “basketball diplomacy” in North Korea by running a basketball camp for children and playing pickup games with locals—and by competing alongside North Korea’s top athletes in a scrimmage they hope will be attended by leader Kim Jong Un.

“At a time when tensions between the two countries are running high, it’s important to keep lines of cultural communication open, no matter how non-traditional those channels may be,” said Shane Smith, the VICE founder who is host of the upcoming TV series. “It’s important to show North Koreans that America is not their enemy, and playing a game we both love is a step in the right direction.”

VICE, a Brooklyn-based media company known for its sometimes irreverent journalism, has made two previous visits to North Korea, coming out with the “VICE Guide to



Former NBA star Dennis Rodman speaks at the departure hall of Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013.

North Korea.” The HBO series, which will air weekly, features documentary-style news reports from around the world.

As part of the trip, the Americans will visit North Korea’s national monuments as well as the SEK animation studio and a new skate park in Pyongyang. The show on Rodman’s trip to North Korea airs on April 5.

The U.S. State Department hasn’t been contacted about travel to North Korea by this group, a senior administration official said, requesting anonymity to comment before any trip had been made public. The official said the department does not vet U.S. citizens’ private travel to North Korea and urges US citizens contemplating travel there to review a travel warning on its website.

In a now-defunct U.S.-North Korean agreement in which Washington had planned last year to give food aid to Pyongyang in exchange for nuclear concessions, Washington had said it was prepared

## South Africa: will Pistorius train while on bail?

**JOHANNESBURG** (AP)—Oscar Pistorius on Monday informed South African authorities that he wants to resume athletic training while on bail for the murder case against him, a government official said.

A spokeswoman for the Olympic runner, however, denied that he was making immediate plans to return to the track while awaiting trial for the Feb. 14 shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

“Absolutely not,” said spokeswoman Janine Hills. “He is currently in mourning and his focus is not on his sports.”

The double-amputee Paralympian discussed bail terms with his probation officer and a correctional official at the Pretoria Magistrate’s Court in the capital, according to correctional officials. The guidelines will determine his daily routine until his next court appearance on June 4.

“It’s his wish to continue to practice,” James Smalberger, chief deputy commissioner of the department of correctional services, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Smalberger said the issue came up because authorities need to know his movements whenever he leaves the home where he is staying.

The timing of any resumption of training was uncertain.

Pistorius’ longtime coach, Ampie Louw, declined to comment on any training plans for the runner, referring questions to a spokeswoman for the athlete’s family.

Louw had said when the runner was in detention that he wanted to put him back into training in the event that he was granted bail. But he had also said Pistorius could be “heartbroken” and unwilling to immediately run again.

Pistorius, who was released

to increase people-to-people exchanges with the North, including in the areas of culture, education and sports.

Promoting technology and sports are two major policy priorities of Kim Jong Un, who took power in December 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

But the often over-the-top Rodman, with his maze of tattoos, nose studs and neon-bleached hair, seems like an unlikely diplomat to a country where male fashion rarely ventures beyond military khaki and growing facial hair is forbidden.

During his heyday in the 1990s, Rodman was a poster boy for excess. He called his 1996 autobiography “Bad as I Wanna Be”—and showed up wearing a wedding dress to promote it.

Shown a photo of a snarling Rodman, piercings dangling from his lower lip and two massive tattoos emblazoned on his chest, one North Korean in Pyongyang recoiled and said: “He looks like a monster!”

But Rodman is also a Hall of Fame basketball player and one of the best defenders and rebounders to ever play the game. During a storied, often controversial career, he won five NBA championships—a feat that quickly overshadowed his antics for at least one small North Korean group of basketball fans.

Along with soccer, basketball is enormously popular in North Korea, where it’s not uncommon to see basketball hoops set up in hotel parking lots or in schoolyards. It’s a game that doesn’t require much equipment or upkeep.

The U.S. remains Enemy No. 1 in North Korea, and North Koreans have limited exposure to American pop culture. But they know Michael Jordan, a

former teammate of Rodman’s when they both played for the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s.

During a historic visit to North Korea in 2000, then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright presented Kim Jong Il, famously an NBA fan, with a basketball signed by Jordan that later went on display in the huge cave at Mount Myohyang that holds gifts to the leaders.

North Korea even had its own Jordan wannabe: Ri Myong Hun, a 7-foot-9 star player who is said to have renamed himself “Michael” after his favorite player and moved to Canada for a few years in the 1990s in hopes of making it into the NBA.

Even today, Jordan remains well-loved here. At the Mansudae Art Studio, which produces the country’s top art, a portrait of Jordan spotted last week, complete with a replica of his signature and “NBA” painted in one corner, seemed an odd inclusion among the propaganda posters and celadon vases on display.

An informal poll of North Koreans revealed that “The Worm” isn’t quite as much a household name in Pyongyang.

But Kim Jong Un, also said to be a basketball fanatic, would have been an adolescent when Rodman, now 51, was with the Bulls, and when the Harlem Globetrotters, an exhibition basketball team, kept up a frenetic travel schedule worldwide.

The notoriously unpredictable and irrepressible Rodman said he has no special antics up his sleeve for making his mark on one of the world’s most regimented and militarized societies, a place where order and conformity are enforced with Stalinist fervor.

But he said he isn’t leaving any of his piercings behind.

on bail Friday, is staying at the house of his uncle, Arnold, in the affluent suburb of Waterkloof in Pretoria. He faces life imprisonment if convicted.

Pistorius is charged with premeditated murder in the killing of Steenkamp, in the early hours of Valentine’s Day. Prosecutors say the pair had an argument before Steenkamp was killed; Pistorius says he mistook her for an intruder and shot her accidentally.

Smalberger said officials will visit Pistorius at his uncle’s home at least four times a month, and that the runner indicated his interest in training again. More planning must occur before the start of any training.

“We want a training program from his coach so that we have backup for his movements,” Smalberger said.

“He’s not under house arrest, but his movements need to be

known to us so that we don’t pitch there and he’s not there,” he said. “We agree on ‘free time’ normally during the course of the day, and in the evening we expect him to be home.”

Pistorius’ 2013 season had been geared towards the Aug. 10-18 World Championships in Moscow, where the South African 4x400 relay team will be trying for another medal to add to the silver it won at the 2011 edition.

Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair had set bail at 1 million rand (\$113,000). The 26-year-old track star was also ordered to hand over his passports, turn in any guns he owns and keep away from his upscale home in a gated community in Pretoria, the scene of the crime.

He cannot leave the district of Pretoria without his probation officer’s permission and is not allowed to consume drugs or alcohol, the magistrate said.

# Mayweather sings praises of his new Showtime deal

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BOXING** **DETROIT (AP)**—It’s Showtime in more ways than one for Floyd Mayweather Jr., who said Thursday he is excited about both a weekend fight he’s promoting as well as his lucrative new deal with the CBS-owned network.

Mayweather, who was in Detroit for a news conference ahead of Saturday’s junior middleweight title bout between Cornelius

“K9” Bundrage and Ishe Smith, likened his Showtime agreement to a matrimonial modification.

“I got a divorce,” a smiling Mayweather said of leaving HBO, his longtime television home. “I’m married again.”

“I couldn’t have asked for a better deal,” he said.

The sport’s biggest star and moneymaker announced Tuesday that he’ll fight Robert Guerrero on May 4 on Showtime, a move that shook up the boxing universe. Mayweather’s move is a coup for Showtime, which long has

trailed HBO in boxing prominence.

Mayweather (43-0, 26 KOs) said his new revenue-sharing deal could include up to six pay-per-view bouts over 30 months, a much faster pace than to which he’s become accustomed.

The 147-pound champion, who hasn’t fought since beating Miguel Cotto on May 5, has fought just four times since December 2007.

“The fans want to see a lot more of me,” Mayweather told reporters at the MGM Grand Detroit. “I will give you excitement.”

Mayweather, who turns 36 on Sunday, was there to support Saturday’s card at the nearby Masonic Temple Theatre as well as Smith, his friend and sparring partner from Las Vegas, who is vying for his first-ever professional title.

The news event was testy with supporters of Bundrage and Smith screaming at each other and scuffling at one point inside one of the casino-hotel’s conference rooms.

Mayweather was all smiles, putting his arm around Smith and chatting amiably with Stephen Espinoza, executive vice president and general manager of

Showtime Sports, who called the deal one “which we’re very, very proud of.”

Mayweather, who grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich., said he began training for the Guerrero fight Wednesday by running in the gym of Ottawa Hills High School in his hometown.

“This is a guy I know I can’t overlook,” Mayweather said of Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KOs), the WBC’s interim welterweight champion.

Manny Pacquiao had been Mayweather’s only rival in recent years, though he had a pair of losses in 2012. Asked Thursday

about a possible future fight with the Filipino, Mayweather pointed to the “crucial knockout” he suffered at the hands of Juan Manuel Marquez in December.

“If people don’t know, Floyd Mayweather’s not scared of (any) opponent,” Mayweather said. “You just don’t wake up overnight and just become (the best) pound-for-pound (fighter). And sometimes people talk about my legacy. If my legacy was based upon just one fight, then I didn’t need to fight 43 fights.”

Shifting to his upcoming fight, Mayweather promised an entertaining bout with Guerrero.

## BLUE AYUYUS

From Page 28

pine professional team Meralco Sparks to a scoreless draw.

Nepal, nicknamed Gorkhalis, began its preparation for the Group D matches late last year and just got a new coach last month in Polish-American Jack Stefanowski, who replaced Englishman Graham Roberts. Stefanowski, who coached in collegiate and pro leagues in the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico, is taking over a team that has low morale due to its back-to-back losses to Pakistan early this month, a drop in FIFA rankings, inconsistent support from the All Nepal Football Associa-

tion, and absence of intense preparatory camp.

Even Stefanowski admitted in a story published at the Nepal football website that “the sorry state of Nepali football presents bigger challenges for him.”

While almost everything is going against the host nation, the opposite can be said for the visiting Blue Ayuyus. CNMI team manager Norman Del Rosario in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said the Blue Ayuyus’ better organization and more positive attitude will be their advantage when they debut in the qualifier against the hosts. He added that Nepal has no clue on the Commonwealth’s brand of football, so that is also a plus.

Skills-wise, Koo, in a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune* last week said Nepal players are known for short passes and long balls, so they have to prepare their defense for these plays.

As for the player to watch, Rohit Chand will be a mark man on the host’s side. However, Chand only joined Nepal last Saturday after getting permission to play in the qualifier from his pro club. The 21-year-old defensive midfielder plays for PSPS Pekanbaru in the Indonesian Super Liga and was the youngest player to suit up for Nepal’s national squad at 17.

The local hero debuted in the pro league in 2009, playing for Machhindra Football Club and

winning the defensive player of the year award that season. He also played in India and tried his luck in Europe last year, but failed and decided to compete in Indonesia.

Chang is one of the 28 players named on Nepal’s training pool, but only 23 will make the final squad, which will be named today. Also included on the pool is Sagar Thapa, who has the most caps with nine and third in the most international match played with 49.

On the CNMI’s side, Trey Dunn and Joe Miller co-captain the Blue Ayuyus with the latter having the most goals scored so far for the Commonwealth with four. Former MLS and EPL player Johann Noet-

zel will be the Blue Ayuyus’ starting goalkeeper. Boosting the squad are many time CNMI National Team member and former NMIFA technical director Nick Swaim, and

Bo Barry and Lucas Knecht, who are both playing for their schools in the U.S.

The Blue Ayuyus will play the Gorkhalis at 5:30pm (around 10pm Saipan time) on March 2.

## DELA CRUZ

From Page 28

The February Ace of the Month was a close race between Dela Cruz, one of the two females that participated in this tournament, and Mike Sablan as they came away with matching net scores of 68. However, due to MGA’s tie-breaker rule, Dela Cruz bagged top honors in the end.

She shot a 48 in the front nine and followed it with a 50 on the back to a gross of 98, while Sablan settled for second, despite a gross round of gross of 80. He started out with a 43 and finished with a 37 after the turn.

MGA president Carl J. Hocog rounded out the third spot after shooting a gross score of 80 that factored into a 69 net total. Other notables include championship tee contender Joey Dela Cruz (83 gross, 71 net) who finished fourth from the blue tee ahead of fifth placer Ernest Sablan (97 and 73).

Dela Cruz also won closest to the pin spoils in holes No. 3 and 7 with Hocog taking hole No. 12 and J.J. Atalig claiming hole No. 14.

Club Hocog indicated that MGA is still inviting members of the community to join their organization. Its annual membership fee of \$50 is due before next month’s tournament, which is scheduled for March 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Show time is set for 9am leading into a 10am tee off.

Hocog would also like to thank everyone who participated in this month’s tournament, Coral Ocean Point for their partnership, and Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Atalig and family for hosting the group at their residence.

In addition, Hocog extends his gratitude to Marianas Country Club for the partnership and to Rep. and Mrs. Tony Benavente for hosting the group’s January Ace event.

MGA tournaments are played with a handicap system where players with a handicap of 10 and under tee off from the championship tee (blue tee), those with a handicap of 11 and above tee off from the men’s white tee, and the female participants tee off from the female red tee. MGA takes pride in their handicap system, as most other organizations do not utilize the championship tee during their ace of the month tournaments. To compensate members who teed off from the championship tee, a plus 2 handicap is added to their standing for a competitive tournament.

For more information and further updates about upcoming tournaments, contact J.J. Atalig at 285-4115, Greg Sablan Jr. at 483-8263, or email marianas-golf670@gmail.com. Also visit MGA’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarianasGolfAssociation.

## LADY

From Page 28

to be back next year as a strong early favorite.

GCA dropped just one game in the regular season, to MHS Lady Blue Dolphins, but redeemed itself in the postseason with the sweep over 10 other squads as both the Rota High School Lady Bucks and Tinian High School Lady Stallions were added into the mix.

They earned a first round bye on the first day of competition last Friday and advanced past the Lady Stormz of Marianas Baptist Academy, 25-13, 25-15, and MHS Blue, 25-15, 25-14.

Then the following day GCA

downed the eventual runner-up SIS Green, 25-19, 26-24, and then waited around for a couple of hours to see who it would face in the finals.

The downtime did not affect the Lady Eagles’ performance at all as they controlled both final sets with multiple bump and set combinations from all angles of the net.

In addition to a healthy dose of kills manufactured by great communication and spacing, GCA also better minimized committing unforced errors than the other groups by keeping most of their shots in bounds and avoiding calls for obstructing the net on defense.

GCA jumped out to a 9-2 run in the opening final set, and

forced SIS Green to take a timeout moments later when leading, 12-4.

The latter managed to trim its deficit to a handful on a few occasions, but GCA showed its ability to close and had its rivals on the run from the start of what turned out to be the final face-off.

They glided in front, 4-0, from the get-go and maintained control of the match all the way to the end, averaging close to a 5- or 6-point leads for the majority of the set.

Though it came up short, a second place finish still gives SIS Green a firm foundation to build on, much like its Lady White Gecko counterparts, who settled for third place this

year in front of the Mount Carmel Lady Knights in what was a very close match, 25-15, 22-25, 17-15.

SIS White won five out of seven matches and though it never ran into the Lady Eagles were ousted by its sister squad SIS Green, 25-18, 25-13.

SIS Green earned a first round bye as the No. 2 seed and advanced past SIS White, 25-17, 25-16, and MCS, 25-14, 25-23, before getting dumped by GCA for the first time in the upper bracket semifinal.

Other competing schools included MHS Lady Yellow Dolphins, Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus, and Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays.

## MACARIO

From Page 28

cario, but managed to steal the win after sweeping the last two games on Court 3, 21-9, 21-12.

The tandems of Ezekiel Macario and Omori and Santos and Puy Macario are in Pool A of the men’s B doubles, which has six pairs, the same number of teams Pool B has. Each pool will have a round-robin format in the elimination and the Top 2 squad in each group will advance to the playoffs.

Edwin Montoya and Saul Gargallo are in Pool B and drew first blood after slipping past Jerry Tan and Mr. Park. Gargallo and Montoya took the first game, 21-15, but, missed the sweep when Park and Tan eked out a 21-20 triumph in the sec-

ond game. Then in the decider, Montoya and Gargallo coasted to a 21-12 win.

Four other men’s B division matches were played in the opening day of the Sun Palace tournament and all of them were decided after only two games.

Joel Ortega and Saliya Rajapakshe earned one of the victories via sweep last weekend, beating Dick Guintu and Celso Agui in the men’s A doubles on Court 1, 21-12, 21-12. Then on Court 3, Son Jae Ok and Kim Young Sik gave newcomers Jeremi Montenejo and Kevin Park a rude welcome, cruising to a 21-5, 21-7 victory in the Pool A pairing in the men’s C doubles division.

In another men’s C doubles match, Jeff Riman and Rommel Bartolome prevailed over Kevin Park and Pool B partner Deether Edralin, 21-14, 21-18.

The other Pool B duel last Saturday also saw Eydie Uy and Daniel Siu make short work of JP Nopia and Mhark Apolarin, 21-12, 21-9.

Besides the men’s doubles matches, four women’s doubles tiff were also scheduled in the opener of Northern Marianas Badminton Association’s first tournament for the season.

In the women’s C doubles division, newcomers Sally and Tina Lee won their debut against Kim and Jewell, 21-8, 21-10. In the women’s C, Jen Savellano and Chris Obaldo also swept Alma Ortega and Diane Francisco, 21-16, 21-9, while Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno scored a similar two-game win over Merlie Tolentino and Christy Villafior, 21-14, 21-10.

Jen Cardinio and Janelle Pangelinan completed the open-

ing day winners in the women’s B doubles after thwarting Windy Fernandez and Annette Ta, 16-21, 21-13, 21-16. Four other pairs are entered in the women’s B doubles.

Meanwhile, five singles games were played in the opener and three of them were stretched to three games.

In the women’s C singles, Roxie Lazaro outclassed Havi-ka Farro, 21-17, 16-21, 21-19, while Lani Santos swept Mykki Caracut, 21-12, 21-18. In the third women’s singles match last Saturday, Savellano also took only two games to beat Loida Ito in the B division, 21-11, 21-10.

In the men’s singles, Kok Pang outlasted Chris Hilario in the B division, 21-12, 20-21, 21-15, while in the A division, Jexler Caranto topped Mario Diola, 21-17, 18-21, 21-19.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
New York	33 20 .623 —
Brooklyn	33 24 .579 2
Boston	30 27 .526 5
Philadelphia	22 32 .407 11 1/2
Toronto	23 34 .404 12
Southeast Division	
Miami	40 14 .741 —
Atlanta	32 23 .582 8 1/2
Washington	18 37 .327 22 1/2
Orlando	15 41 .268 26
Charlotte	13 43 .232 28
Central Division	
Indiana	35 21 .625 —
Chicago	32 24 .571 3
Milwaukee	26 28 .481 8
Detroit	22 37 .373 14 1/2
Cleveland	18 38 .321 17
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
San Antonio	45 13 .776 —
Memphis	37 18 .673 6 1/2
Houston	31 27 .534 14
Dallas	25 30 .455 18 1/2
New Orleans	20 37 .351 24 1/2
Northwest Division	
Oklahoma City	41 15 .732 —
Denver	36 22 .621 6
Utah	31 26 .544 10 1/2
Portland	26 30 .464 15
Minnesota	20 33 .377 19 1/2
Pacific Division	
L.A. Clippers	40 18 .690 —
Golden State	33 23 .589 6
L.A. Lakers	28 30 .483 12
Sacramento	19 38 .333 20 1/2
Phoenix	18 39 .316 21 1/2
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

# Maplas snaps Sexy Boys' streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Maplas La Mani ended Sexy Boys' run in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after pulling off a 54-51 victory last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Maplas led from the opening tip and canned free throws in the homestretch to hand the Sexy Boys its first loss in six games. The win was Maplas' fourth in a row after dropping its debut against Gualo Rai, 65-66, early this month.

Mico Usi made no field goals in the entire game, but drilled four free throws in the final two minutes of the match to secure the win for Maplas. He scored all his 6 points from the foul line, including a split that gave Maplas insurance baskets in the last 1.2 seconds of the fourth quarter.

The Sexy Boys threatened Maplas when Herbert Maranan and Pat Tinio hit back-to-back triples with less than 20 second remaining on the clock, cutting the deficit that once stood at twin digits to a deuce, 53-51. After Tinio's triple, a split from Ryan Odicta gave Maplas the shaky 2-point lead and Usi had a chance to give the team more cushion when the



Maplas La Mani's Mico Usi, seen here going for a layup against Servitek defenders, made crucial free throws in their 54-51 win over the Sexy Boys in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sexy Boys missed on the other end and was forced to commit a preemptive foul.

Usi stepped from the line where he went 3-for-6 from his previous trips and had another split, as coach Rex Yabut instructed him to make the first one and intentionally muff the second to waste the time that eventually ran down as players

from opposing camps battle for the rebound.

Dennis Cortez top-scored for Maplas with his 20 points, while Josephus Aguilar added 10. John Larot and Tinio had 15 each for the Sexy Boys, who got into early trouble when it was stuck to 6 points for about five minutes in the first period, allowing Maplas to take an

8-point lead, 14-6

Maplas remained in the driver's seat at the end of each quarter and though Maranan and Tinio teamed up for the Sexy Boys' late push, Usi was there to save the day for his team.

With the Sexy Boys bowing to Maplas, only Adobo (6-0) remained unbeaten in Division B.

## Chinatown 61, LD Prime 53

Meanwhile, Chinatown is starting another win streak after suffering back-to-back losses, following its 8-point win over the slumping LD Prime (1-6).

Chinatown got its second victory and improved to a 5-3

record after prevailing in a low-scoring game.

Justin Zapanta reported for duty for Chinatown in the second half and top-scored for the squad with his 14 points. William Pua also finished in twin digits with his 12 markers, while Paul Quizon chipped in 9.

Quizon gave some life to Chinatown's lethargic start, scoring 5 in the first period that ended with LD Prime only behind by a hair, 12-13. Both teams continued to play a slow offense and Chinatown hung on to a 25-23 halftime edge. The lead increased to 4 at the end of the third, 38-34, with Joe Norita getting into his rhythm a bit, nailing 6 markers after a dismal 2-point production in the first half.

Zapanta added 2 points in the

third period and then dropped 12 in the payoff canto to give Chinatown its fifth win.

## First Game

**Chinatown 61** – Zapanta 14, Pua 12, Quizon 9, Norita 8, Avila 8, Alokoa 4, Kimo 3, William 1.

**LD Prime 53** – Esteves 13, Jugos 13, K. Quemado 10, Pena 8, Fleming 5, Toribio 2, Isip 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-12, 25-23, 38-34, 61-53.

## Second Game

**Maplas La Mani 54** – Cortez 20, Aguilar 10, Morales 7, M. Usi 6, Anicete 6, Odicta 5.

**Sexy Boys 51** – Larot 15, Tinio 15, Santos 8, Maranan 7, Tumbaga 2, Daria 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-6, 26-21, 41-35, 54-51.

# Sasamoto tops Amigos February qualifier



Felix Sasamoto topped Amigo Golf Club's qualifying round for February after shooting a net 69 last Feb. 10 at the Marianas Country Club.

Sasamoto, who is known more for wielding a fishing spear than a golf club, beat out nine other contenders with his 89 gross, which after his 20 handicap was deducted, save him a score of 3-under. He posted a raw score of 45 and 44 in front and back nine, respectively.

Diding Hocog, John Guerrero, and Dan Quitugua all came in second with identical post

handicap scores of 72.

Hocog shot 50 at the front and improved by four strokes at the back with a 46 for a gross of 96. With her 24 handicap, she came in with an even par net.

Guerrero posted a front nine gross of 42 and duplicated the score at the back nine for an 84 and with his of 12 handicap, he also came away with an even par net.

Dan Quitugua was not about to be left out of the race and shot 46 at the front and 40 at the back for a gross of 86. Mi-

nus his 14 handicap, Quitugua went back to the clubhouse with a net 72.

Doll Yamagishi rounded up third with a net score of 73. Other net scores are as follows: Joe Tudela, 74; Ben Jones Sr., 75; John Matsumoto, 77; Lorraine Babauta, 81; and Dr. Larry Hocog settled for 87.

Results of Amigo Golf Club's February Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday, Feb. 24, will be published in tomorrow's edition of *Saipan Tribune*. (AGC)



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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Blue Ayuyus, no pushovers against Nepal



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI goalkeeper Johann Noetzel dives for the ball during a training session in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1 in Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

A Nepalese sports analyst said Nepal should not underestimate newcomer, but more organized CNMI Men's National Team when they collide in the opening of the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers this Saturday at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.



"The Islanders do carry the tag of being the minnows, but it would be a mistake to underestimate them. They have seriously prepared themselves for the competition and are ready to prove themselves," wrote Sushil Thapa in his column published in the Nepal football website.

"I expect them (CNMI players) to go all out to make a good first impression," Thapa added. The Blue Ayuyus, who arrived in Nepal Sunday evening (early Monday morning on Saipan) and went to their second straight day of practice session in one of the training facilities in Kathmandu yesterday, started preparing for the qualifier since September last year under the guidance of Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) coaches led by former Olympian Luam Khen Koo. The CNMI strikers also played two exhibition games before they left for Nepal, beating Japan Soccer College on Saipan, 2-0, and holding Philip-

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## Lady Eagles soar to v-ball championship



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles pose for a team photo with the championship trophy after the conclusion of the 2013 MISO Girls Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles soundly defeated Saipan International School Lady Green Geckos in two sets, 25-15, 25-17, to cap off nearly a perfect season as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2013 girls volleyball finale tournament concluded last Saturday at the Marinas High School Gymnasium.

The champion squad consists of Aira Batallones, Danica Canedo, Crystal Cristobal, Zena Demapan, Michelle Faller, Alexa Go, Jody Kim, Julie Muna, Jazmin Rayphand, Jaden Reyes, Mulan Ta, and Michi Tenorio under coach Jen Douglas.

The Lady Eagles are a very young group made up of only three seniors—Batallones, Cristobal, and Tenorio—and junior Muna, so expect them

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## Macario, Omori survive opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Young guns Ezekiel Macario and Kanata Omori played an extended match in their opening assignment in the Sun Palace Hotel

the grade after downing veterans Puy Macario and Joseph Santos last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Ezekiel Macario and Omori dropped the opening game, 19-21 of their men's doubles B duel against Santos and Puy Maton Competition 2013 and made

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanata Omori, front, ducks to give Ezekiel Macario a clear shot during their game against Puy Macario and Joseph Santos in the men's doubles B division of the Sun Palace Hotel tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

## Dela Cruz tops MGA February Ace



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, MGA February Ace of the Month winner Geri Dela Cruz poses with runner-up Mike Sablan, third place finisher Carl Hocog, and fourth placer Joey Dela Cruz during the group's awards banquet held after the Feb. 17 event.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Amidst the unfavorable weather, Geri Delas Cruz topped 27 other competitors in the Marianas Golf Association's February Ace of the Month Tournament held last

Feb. 17 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

A total of 12 male participants teed off from the blue championship tee and 14 from the white intermediate box with Dela Cruz and one other female contender teeing up from the red ladies tee.

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